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CITY News

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Movie Reviews

Men of honor is 'very good'

See ARTZ Wednesday on B-5

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November 22 - November 29, 2000

Vol. 18, No. 8

50 cents

Book details killing of 1200 black soldiers by US Army

By Kam Williams

The Slaughter:
An American Atrocity
By Carroll Case
300 pp.

"White MPs were called in... armed with machine guns... They shot everything that moved, until nothing did; not one defenseless soldier got away. When the shooting stopped, over 1200 members of the 364th were slaughtered."

In December of 1943, over one thousand black soldiers were slaughtered at Camp Van Dom, located just outside the sleepy southern town of Centerville, Mississippi. These enlisted men weren't killed in combat with the enemy, but lined up and moved down, unarmed, by white soldiers acting on orders from superiors in the US Army.

Unbelievable. Isn't it? The first thought I had upon hearing about the incident was that it couldn't possibly be true. So, I got my hands on the book, *The Slaughter*, written by Carroll Case, a local, white Mississippi journalist who blew the cover off this shocking, long-neglected massacre.

And as I examined the proof offered by the author in his carefully-researched text, the shock of recognition set in, even though the truth remains difficult to swallow.

Nobody wants to think that a government-sanctioned Holocaust of African-Americans could have occurred during WWII. Or that it was successfully hidden for over 50 years, despite the military's ability to keep so many of its operations an absolute secret. But Mr. Case has pieced together the scenario which led to this unthinkable crime against humanity, relying on a combination of eyewitness accounts and declassified documents unearthed by way of a Freedom of Information Act inquiry.

Thus, we learn, for instance, that the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, some five months before the atrocity, filed an affidavit with the Secretary of War on behalf of the 364th Infantry, an all-black regiment.

NAACP Attorney Milton Kovitz attached to his appeal the emotional letters of several members of the 364th which eloquently but desperately complained

about their mistreatment on the basis of race.

The book explains that the regiment had specifically been relocated from Phoenix to the Deep South because of insubordination.

The black soldiers had repeatedly complained about the unequal treatment of blacks and whites in the armed forces.

So, they were shipped to a remote outpost in Mississippi in order to have their rebellious spirit broken by an even more repressive social code.

At Camp Van Dom, however, matters only went from bad to worse as the African-American soldiers still refused to capitulate. And when white officers observed that the surly attitude of these Northern blacks were beginning to infect their obedient Southern brethren,

See SOLDIERS on page A-8

Thanksgiving came to Newark early

Thanksgiving came early on Nov. 16 to some needy Newark residents who received one of Maize Restaurant's 100 hot, prepackaged Thanksgiving meals that were donated to the homeless through the St. John's Church Meal Program.

"We've been in business since May, and we have been so well received by the community, so we wanted to give something back," said Chef Pat Katsonis, who plans to spend Thanksgiving with his family, including his Mother Tina, late sister Rosemary and his nephews Demetri and Christopher.

Maize Restaurant, located across the street from NJPAC and in the lobby of the Robert Treat Hotel, has only been open for six months but already wants to start giving back to The City of Newark.

To date, St. John's Church has served more than 2,500,000 meals to the hungry. St. John's Parish is supported by free-will donations from faith-filled people. It does not accept Government funds, neither does it ask for or receive grants from the Archdiocese, because it believes that people of faith who know its witness to basic religious values, will always support it.

Serving both lunch and dinner, Maize has an elaborate tea menu and extensive wine list, and is open seven days a week. The restaurant was recently used as a filming location for the HBO hit series "The Sopranos" and has received a rating of "Very Good" from The New York Times and has been featured on NBC's Weekend Update in New York. Maize Restaurant is located on the ground floor of the Robert Treat Hotel at Fifty Park Place in Newark, New Jersey.

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Maize Restaurant's Chef Pat Katsonis hands out meals at St. John's Church in Newark

Photo by Jeremie Johnson

Black and white voters don't trust Jeb

By Yanela Gordon
Capital Outlook

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Special to the NNPA) — Many voters are questioning if there is any connection between the election confusion in Florida and its governor Jeb Bush, younger brother of Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush.

"I believe he did have something to do with it," said Demetrius Kelly, a Democrat and Vice President of Gore supporters. "Jeb Bush assured his brother he would deliver him Florida and I found that kind of odd, especially since it looked like Florida was going to Gore."

While there is no evidence of any inappropriate involvement in the election or electoral process by Jeb Bush, skeptics say things are just too strange.

Nic Gelleppers, also a Democrat, said, "There is not just one thing; there are a lot of things going wrong. For this many things to go wrong in the state where the presidential candidate's brother is the governor has me skeptical."

During election night, national media, by conducting exit polls, projected Gore would win Florida and its 25 electoral votes. Around 9 p.m. Florida was removed from the Gore column because the media, citing faulty data, now deemed the race to be close to call.

At approximately 2:20 a.m. on the Wednesday after elections, the media then projected George W. Bush as the winner in Florida and the president-elect, only to have the state removed from his column roughly two hours later and placed in the too-close-to-call column again.

But ultimately the final tally had Bush winning by 1,700 votes over Gore.

Meanwhile, several boxes of ballots that had been reported missing for six hours were found. The Palm Beach County supervisor of elections' office was inundated with complaints from residents of a predominantly elderly and Jewish district who felt they had accidentally voted for Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan because their ballot was confusing.

The so-called butterfly ballot was also blamed for confusing nearly 19,000 voters who double punched their ballots. Those ballots were thrown out.

By Florida law for elections this close, elections officials statewide began a machine recount which turned up more votes for both candidates, but more important, trimmed Bush's lead from 1,700 to around 300.

Gore officials then requested hand recounts in Broward, Dade, Palm Beach, Osceola and Volusia counties.

A district judge ordered an injunction prohibiting the certification of the Palm Beach ballots until the manual recount has been conducted. Gov. Jeb Bush received himself from the election canvassing board, so not to give the appearance of conflict of interest," he said. But by then, Gore supporters say, the fish had already begun to smell.

The NAACP conducted hearings over the weekend, documenting testimony from mostly Black voters who said they encountered problems while trying to vote.

Black voters complained of racial profiling after a speed block was set up on one-half mile from a large, predominantly Black precinct. Other voters said they were denied ballots after being told absentee ballots had been mailed to their homes.

Republican Leeh Bonds said, "I absolutely do not think it's a coincidence what's happening in Florida. I have a general distrust for the whole Bush family. They knew they had to get the minority vote to win and they couldn't do it."

Gelleppers and Bonds added family members' ties to secret societies such as Freemasons, and Skull and Bones, established at Yale, the alma mater of both George W. Bush, his grandfather Prescott Bush and his father, former President George H. W. Bush, enables the family to influence power. And George H. W. Bush's former position as head of the CIA leaves too much to question as well.

"They can do some dirty work behind the scenes," Bonds said.

Selling of black-owned companies: Cash gains and cultural loss?

By Sheldon Perry and Raoul Dennis

It was bound to happen... it's not new. The question now is: does the sale of BET to a White company boost well for Black community interests?

Black Entertainment Television founder and CEO Bob Johnson has always said he was a businessman and in it for the money. The fact that BET was a Black channel was incidental: he filled a niche in the market-not a mission from God.

The recent deal with Viacom to sell BET's largest properties on for \$2.5 billion is not the first of

its kind. Black-owned companies providing services or products to Black consumers have, in the late part of the 20th century, been as prone to sell or merge their interests with larger, White-owned businesses as with other Black business leaders. For many African-Americans the sale of BET is another sad milestone in the striking absence of Black companies.

One of the most striking examples is Berry Gordy's sale of Motown Records in 1988 to MCA and Boston Ventures for \$61 million. And Black-owned hair-care companies like Johnson Products and Soft Shave, which have been granted into larger corporate. And then there's

Black radio whose ownership and directions have changed hands in cities across the nation for years. While the colors of the program directors and personalities have changed, the formats, if they are not completely revamped, usually remain "urban". The link: a formally Black-owned service targeting Black consumers sold to or directed by Whites.

These days, corporate buy-outs and mergers are far from unusual. White companies do it all the time. It's not surprising or inherently wrong for Black business leaders to do it. In fact, it could be argued that a Black man who leverages himself to increase his financial worth is an

economic plus for Black people.

But this trend can be harmful to Black communities in disproportionate ways in comparison to larger White companies. Let's face it, ownership means power, and no matter how shrewd a deal, when Johnson gave up ownership, he gave up power; and in the minds of many, our power.

In a recent poll conducted by the Web site BlackPlanet.com, 52 percent of respondents saw BET's sale as another example of a Black company that sold out. Making more money is one thing, losing control of Black images on the nation's largest cable network geared to African-

See SELLING on page A-6

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

SCOTCH PLAINS — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '70 are planning a reunion with a tentative location. For information, call (908) 227-2410.

MORRISTOWN — Thanksgiving Weekend is Full of Fun and Learning at The Morris Museum, Rockin' and Rollin' Workshop for Children from 12-3 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24 - DECEMBER 2

CAPE MAY — Lamplighter Christmas Tours, from 7-9 p.m. For further information call (609) 884-5404.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

BERKELEY HEIGHTS — Union Catholic Regional High School Class of '84 have planned a reunion at Berkeley Plaza. For information, call (732) 499-7086.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30 THROUGH DECEMBER 11

CAPE MAY — A Victorian Tour and Tea Luncheon starting noon. For further information call (609) 884-5404 or 1-800-275-4278.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

The State of New Jersey Division of Youth and Family Services is offering monthly foster care and adoption parent training. For more information, call 1-800-AL-ADOPT or 1-800-99-ADOPT.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

ATLANTIC CITY — Atlantic City Hosts A Variety Of November Trade Shows, Eastern Region, United States Sign Council's Sign World USA. For further information call 609-449-7126.

THROUGH THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30

NEWARK — "Faces of the Ironbound: Newark 1937-1939" is a collection of almost two dozen photos by American photographer William Cotton at the Rutgers Newark Dana Library, 185 University Avenue in Newark. For more information, call (973) 353-5262.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

RARITAN CENTER — The Family Handyman Home Improvement Show, NJ Expo Center. For further information call 1-800-394-5157.

CAPE MAY — The 27TH Annual Candlelight House Tours takes place from 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. For further information call (609) 884-5404.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

LINCROFT — The Monmouth County Park System invites area residents of all ages to join in celebrating the holiday season at the annual "Holiday Happening". For further information call (732) 842-4000, ext. 4237 from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

JERSEY CITY — The Lee Hagan Africana Studies Center will hold a "Kwaanza Celebration," 12-2 p.m. For further information call (201) 200-3524.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

LINCROFT — Monmouth County Park System to Host "Kids Can Crochet."

For further information call (732) 842-4000.

THROUGH THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14

HOWELL — Monmouth County Park System Schedules "Kids Rock." For further information call (732) 842-4000, and for the hearing impaired call (732) 219-9484.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

MORRISTOWN — Teddy Bear Tea at The Morris Museum (A great opportunity for Holiday Photos) For further information call (973) 538-0454, ext. 239.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEWARK — Newark Public Library and IDT Corporation announce "IDT Reading Rewards" Program. For further information call (973) 733-7798.

ONGOING

NEWARK — Poets and musicians are invited every Wednesday night for poetry/jazz held at Waset Komuniversity, 271 South 9th St.; at 7 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call (973) 678-3221.

JERSEY CITY — The Women's Center of New Jersey City University, 32 College Street, will have free support groups this fall. Call for registration at (201) 200-3189.

For community calendar events to: 973-642-5444. Send to: City News Calendar, 111 Mulberry St., TH-C, Newark, NJ 07102. E-mail to: CityNews_news@hotmail.com. Send information at least three weeks prior to the event.

Opportunity Knocks

Know any good 'Family Secrets'?

Enter the IKEA Family Secrets Cookbook recipe contest

Plymouth Meeting, PA — To get ready for the holidays, IKEA invites their extended family and friends (IKEA shoppers and online visitors) to share their favorite family recipes in the first "IKEA Family Secrets Cookbook."

"Chefs" across the country will have the opportunity to both share and enjoy dishes that represent family tradition, history and heritage through this unique cookbook.

There are two ways to submit your family "Secret" recipe:

Visit the Internet

For a chance to share your "secret" recipe to be included in the "IKEA Family Secrets Cookbook," log on to www.ikea-usa.com through Nov. 26. Submit the recipe with instructions, the name of the family member who or was it an accidental discovery when Aunt Violet pulled a jar of molasses?

Via regular postal mail

If you plan to submit your recipe by regular postal mail, you can include a photo of the dish, or a family member preparing the dish, and mail to:

"The IKEA Family Secrets 'Cookbook'" c/o Jericho Communications, 304 Hudson Street, Suite 700 New York, NY 10013.

All recipe submissions must be received by Nov. 26, 2000.

All photos sent will become property of IKEA and will not be returned.

Students seeking careers as journalists are invited to apply for generous award

The Newhouse Graduate Fellowship/Internship in Newspaper Journalism for Minorities underwrites master's level study at the acclaimed S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University while providing on-the-job training at Newhouse Newspapers.

Two winners a year receive free tuition, monthly stipends of \$1,100, health insurance coverage and up to \$3,300 in other benefits for 18 months of graduate study and interning at the Syracuse Newspapers. Later, awardees work as full-time apprentices at any Newhouse newspaper in the country.

To be eligible for the 2001-2003 competition, a candidate must have earned an undergraduate degree from an accredited college or university in a field other than journalism (with a B average or higher) by June 15, 2000, be a United States citizen and either African American, Hispanic/Latino, Asian or Native American.

To apply by or be must, by Feb. 10, 2001, submit a complete application for admission to Syracuse University's master's program in newspaper journalism. This requires taking the Graduate Record Examination no later than Feb. 1, 2001. The \$55 Syracuse University graduate application fee will be waived for all eligible Newhouse Fellow candidates. For more information and application forms contact Dean Nancy W. Sharp, 305 Newhouse I Syracuse University, Syracuse, N.Y., 13244-2100. She also can be reached by phone, (315)443-1124.

New York Women's Agenda honors outstanding women and men at Star breakfast

The New York Women's Agenda (NYWA), a coalition of 88 New York women's organizations will hold its ninth annual Star Breakfast on Tuesday, December 5th, at the New York Hilton, First Ladies, Libby Parake, and Donna Hanover will address the more than 3,000 guests, community, state and national leaders expected to attend. Roz Abrams of ABC News, will be returning as MC.

Every year since its inception, NYWA has honored 5 New York Women Stars, who are outstanding role models in business, arts and the professions. The 2000 Star Award recipients include: Christy Haubegger, President and Publisher, Latina Magazine; Bridget Macaskill, Chairman &

CEO, Oppenheimer Funds, Inc.; Paula Madison, Vice President & News Director, WNBC; Sandra Priest Rose, Founding Trustee, Reading Reform Foundation; and Yee-Ping Wu, CEO & President, Kna, Division of M-Pen, Inc.

Additionally NYWA presents a special "Rising Star" award to an individual who makes a significant difference in her community. This year's recipient is Donna Dees-Thomases, creator of the "Million Mom March" for common sense gun safety legislation.

Also honored are men uniquely qualified because of their support for women and women's issues.

NYWA Honorable Mentions this year will be presented to: Henrique de Campos Meirelles, President, Fleet Global Bank; Bernard Collins, Human Resources Manager, UPS (United Parcel Service) and Lee Dunham, President & CEO, TCB Management Corporation, McDonalds.

For more information, contact the New York Women's Agenda at 212-297-2155.

Reparations forum

Dr. John DeBriizzi (right), an associate professor of sociology at New Jersey City University, and Dr. Antoinette Ellington (left), director of the University's Lee Hagan African Studies Center, were the co-leaders of a recent campus forum that focused on the merits and problems of reparations for the African-American community. The forum, which also included an examination of Randall Robinson's book, "The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks," was sponsored by the NJCU Hagan Center as part of a fall series of programs based on the theme, "Justice for All: Race, Class, Gender Sexuality." Among those who attended the forum were NJCU seniors Crystal Caddell (left) and Iyeha Watson, who are both sociology majors and residents of Irvington.



Free photography contest open to Newark residents

OWINGS MILLS, MD — Attention all amateur photographers: Submit one photo in one of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Children, Sports, Nature, Action, Human Portraiture, or Other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8" x 10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Deadline is Jan. 31, 2001. Sent photo to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-9009, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117.

CITYNEWS

Pick up your community newspaper at these Newark bus locations

- MLK Blvd. & 13th St.
- West Market & MLK Blvd @ Bus Stop
- UMD South Orange Ave. Entrance
- Bergen St. Pathmark
- University St. & New St. at University
- Rutgers Hosp.
- Market St. & Washington St. (Old Macys)
- Market St. & Halsey St. @ Bus Stop
- Broad St. & Hill St.
- Broadstreet & Commerce
- Park Place at Bus Stop
- Park Pl. at Travelodge Hotel
- Washington Pl. at Washington Library
- Broad St. & Division St. @ Baseball Stadium
- Broadstreet & Lincoln Blvd.
- Broad St. @ Broad St. Station Bus Stop
- Broad St. @ Washington Park
- Raymond Blvd. @ Subway
- Raymond Blvd.
- Horizon Mercy
- Raymond Blvd. @ NJ Transit Building
- Market St. & Raymond Plaza W. @ Bus Term.
- Corner of Market & Mulberry on Gateway side
- Mulberry St. @ Gateway
- Broad St. & Raymond Blvd. @ Subway
- Franklin St. off Broad St. at Main Post Office

Bergen County employees honored for years of service

GARFIELD, NJ — Bergen County Executive William "Pat" Schuber presided over the County's annual Employee Recognition Dinner at The Cameo in Garfield. Many were, honored for years of service, from five years to 40 years of service.



Linda Ellison is honored for 10 years of continued service at the Bergen County Jail by County Executive William "Pat" Schuber (right), and William Van Dyke, (left).



Beridene Ferrill of Hackensack, Bergen County Department of Administration receives her award.

Ann Kelly of Hackensack named Distinguished Employee at the Bergen County Department of Public Works



Learn how you can get a place of your own to do business in the new Terminal C Expansion at Newark International Airport.

Minority and/or Women-Owned Retail & Food Businesses

Continental Airlines and Westfield Concession Management, Inc. are holding an informational Outreach Seminar for all minority and women-owned retail and food business entrepreneurs interested in owning/operating concessions within the new Terminal C Expansion at Newark International Airport.

Thursday, December 7, 2000
9am to noon

Holiday Inn
Newark International Airport
160 Frontage Road
Newark, NJ 07114

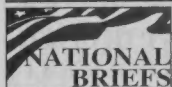
Please RSVP by Monday, December 4, 2000
973.648.0600

Sponsored by:

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Continental

In order to qualify, applicants must obtain certification as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Qualified business people can receive direct support from Westfield in the process of applying and obtaining DBE certification. A limited number of seats at Terminal C are available under this program.



Cast a ballot, get a raffle ticket for a gun

WASHINGTON (NNPA) — In exchange for casting a ballot in Georgia, a voter could go to two gun shops in suburban Atlanta to fill out a raffle ticket to win a Benelli Super Black Eagle 12-gauge shotgun that sells for \$1,000. All that was needed was the "I voted" sticker to participate.

The raffle's purpose is to drive voter turnout, to get people who are interested in the Second Amendment to come out and to the polls," said Steve Frank.

Frank is president of the National Federation of Republican Assemblies, a conservative group that sponsored the raffle.

The raffle is taking place in Georgia's 7th Congressional District, where the congressman is a staunch opponent of gun control.

"What we have seen in other places with these gun raffles is that it upsets everyone else and makes them more likely to support other candidates who support sensible gun laws," said Naomi Pais, a spokeswoman for Handgun Control.

By Yanela Gordon
Capital Outlook

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (Special to the NNPA) — Approximately 300 students signed a letter of discontent with Secretary of State Katherine Harris, who they say ignored their concerns and refused to answer their questions about the tumultuous Nov. 7 election.

"We've written a statement saying she did not represent us well by not addressing us at all," said Tia Mitchell, member of Florida A&M University's Student Government Association.

Mitchell was among the 300-plus students who staged a 21-hour sit-in at the Capitol Nov. 8.

Students wanted answers about missing ballots, alleged racial profiling and the 19,000 votes in Palm Beach County that were thrown out because of "voter confusion."

Students were supporting investigations into the voting irregularities and a revote in Palm Beach County.

"There are too many discrepancies," said Derrick Heck, president of FAMU's SGA. "There is a consistency of inconsistencies across this state."

The sit-in started as a silent protest where hundreds of FAMU students joined by students from Florida State University and Tallahassee Community College, gathered on FAMU's campus after the "emotional roller coaster" of a presidential election on Tuesday.

"Our silent march represents the voice of those voters silenced by not being able to vote," Heck said.

The students marched to the Capitol, where they filled all three tiers of the rotunda.

"I felt like this was more important to do than going to class," said Tyra Allen, a FAMU freshman. "It's very disappointing that in the year 2000, and it's almost 2001, that people are still being denied the right to vote. Martin Luther King and other people worked too hard for this."

While Heck and other members of SGA were able to speak with Harris, the secretary refused to address the group of students as requested.

"She told us she was dealing with national media and officials," Heck said. "I told her we are the nation."

The persistent students decided to stay until Harris would address them. The silent protest turned into a full-fledged sit-in, with hundreds of students signing spirituals and

civil rights songs. Many students left and returned with other students, blankets, books and provisions.

State Sen. Kendrick Meek, D-Miami, and Rep. Tony Hill, D-Jacksonville, both members of Florida's Democratic Electoral College, came to join the students.

If Vice President Al Gore wins Florida's 25 electoral votes, 23 other Democrats will join Meek and Hill and cast them for Gore as president. If Texas Gov. George W. Bush wins Florida, 25 Republican electors will cast their votes for him.

Meek and Hill had staged a 26-hour sit-in on Jan. 16 in Gov. Jeb Bush's office, protesting his One Florida Initiative, which eliminated affirmative action in state contracting and college admissions.

"This is like déjà vu," Meek said.

The lawmakers communicated with members of Harris's staff, trying to get the secretary to address the students.

But it was nine hours later and still no word. "We are waiting to get her here," Meek said. "We're here to share the night with you. When you are ready to go we'll go. But if you stay, we'll stay."

Hill said, "I think we asked young people to get involved and now that they are involved

we don't want them to feel they did it in vain."

During the hours of waiting, the movement brought students closer together and gave them a sense of purpose, said Ebony Yarborough, a FAMU freshman.

"People fought too hard to have their right to vote," she said. "I feel we have to be here. We can't be anywhere else. Even if she doesn't show we still made a statement that we won't let people deprive us our civil rights."

During the sit-in, U.S. Rep. Corrine Brown (D-Fla.) stopped in to show support to the students.

Dallas Wilson, regional coordinator for Youth and College NAACP Chapters said, "You all are an inspiration to the nation. Remember, this is the group they said is not involved in politics, that doesn't care about the issues."

Brandy Davis, founder of the FSU Green Party said election 2000 shed light on some of the country's serious problems.

"The racial profiling of those voters scared me to death," said Davis, who is white. "I thought at least during election time you didn't have to deal with that. I hope minorities, particularly African Americans, are not discouraged but become politically enraged and inspired."

Former Burger King chairman reveals shocking information

DETROIT — In a major development in the La-Van Hawkins vs. Burger King Corporation \$1.9 billion dollar lawsuit former Chairman and CEO of Burger King, Robert Lowes, has stepped forth in total support of claims made by La-Van Hawkins against the Burger King Corporation. This development could significantly change the direction of the lawsuit, because Lowes will provide inside information confirming Burger King's agreement with Hawkins on the development and acquisition of 225 stores over a period of five years.

The relationship between Hawkins and Burger King began in 1995, when Burger King induced Hawkins to build Burger King stores and become a franchisee, targeting the inner-city market. Recognizing the potential of urban locations, Burger King announced that it would join forces with Hawkins, who had solidly carved out a national reputation as a franchise luminary, offering him the acquisition and/or development of 225 Burger

King restaurants over a five-year period, at the rate of 45 restaurants per year.

In April of this year, Hawkins filed a lawsuit alleging that Burger King fraudulently induced him to Burger King and reneged on its commitment to help him open 225 inner-city stores in urban markets throughout the country.

In April, represented by internationally recognized trial attorney, Willie Gary, with Michigan attorney, Norman Yatooma, Hawkins emerged victoriously in the first round of the \$1.9 billion lawsuit. Florida Chief U.S. District Judge William Zloch stayed Burger King's action against Hawkins' UrbanCity Food Group in Florida.

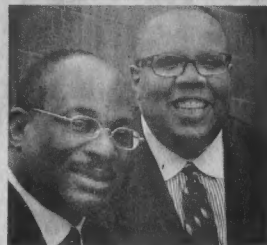
Burger King's lawsuit included a request for an injunction to close down Hawkins' 27 franchise restaurants in Michigan and throughout the country. The court ruled that where the litigation was first filed dictates where the proceedings will be litigated when there is a substantial overlap between the

issues raised in parallel proceedings in two different jurisdictions. Accordingly, the court ordered that Burger King's action was to be marked as closed.

This case has gained a tremendous amount of national exposure, including heart-felt support from well-known community leaders. In September, the Reverend Al Sharpton, along with Minister Louis Farrakhan of the Nation of Islam, planned a boycott in New York, urging African Americans to stop eating at the hamburger chain.

A spokesperson for Sharpton said the pending boycott would be called off if Burger King Corporation reached an agreement with Hawkins in a way that meets the standards of all African Americans. Reverend Jesse Jackson has also played a critical role in the mediation efforts between the two sides.

Hawkins is the nation's largest African American franchisee, with sales in excess of \$192 million per year.



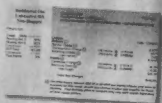
Attorney Willie Gary (left) and La-Van Hawkins.

Knowledge is power.

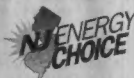


Now your gas bill gives you the information you need to compare prices and save money.

Thanks to NJ Energy Choice, you now have the right to choose which company will supply natural gas to your home. So PSEG & G has made your gas bill easier to read and more informative, to help you shop for rates and compare suppliers.



Look in your November PSEG & G bill for an insert that explains the advantages of your new gas bill in detail. For more information call 1-800-706-PSEG (7734) or log on to www.pseg.com.



EDITORIAL

Don't forget the meaning of Thanksgiving

Some of us think about Thanksgiving weeks before it comes around.

There is the planning of the big meal, the shopping for the ingredients, and of course all the cooking that comes along in preparation of the big day.

For some, Thanksgiving is a time for reunions and the gathering of family during one of the rare occasions in our busy lives when we can afford to spare some time for loved ones.

Some of us reminisce about the happenings of the last time the entire family was together and jokingly boasts about who can out-eat others in the clan.

For others of us, we will remember loved ones who did not make it to see a new holiday; making Thanksgiving a bitter-sweet time when the presence of family will be especially important.

Thanksgiving is a wonderful time for reflection. A time when we must not forget that the holidays are about more than just big feasts, gifts and material possessions.

Thanksgiving is a time to reflect on life's little gifts, and the blessings that have been bestowed upon us throughout the year and throughout our lives.

So, may you and yours have a safe and blessed Thanksgiving.

Put the Constitution over convenience

By Congressman Bernice Johnson

America has come a long way from the pre-civil rights days when Blacks had to guess the number of bubbles in a bar of soap in order to qualify to vote.

The shenanigans in Florida, coupled with George W. Bush's legal quest to stop manual vote recounts to help secure an untainted vote, are a chilling reminder of that ugly past.

What didn't happen in Florida? One only had to remember younger brother Jeb's vow that he would carry Florida for George to feel that was a "by any means necessary" reason.

The networks first awarded Florida to Gore around 7:50 p.m. election night. Almost as suddenly as it hit, the Gore victory vanished with the networks returning to take the state away and award it to Bush, along with the presidency. But around 2 a.m. after returns from the heavily Democratic precinct came in, Bush's lead began diminishing below 400 votes and the Gore camp began getting that sinking feeling that the election was being stolen from him. Although most aides were resigned to the inevitable, Donna Brazile, Gore's seasoned campaign manager, reportedly sent the vice president an urgent voice

page, urging him to "never surrender. It's not over yet."

And at this writing on Tuesday morning, it's not over yet. That sinking feeling that the election has been stolen from Gore and — thus all Americans — is turning into mass resentment and anger. Protesters have jammed the streets in West Palm Beach, students from Florida A&M university sat-in at the State House in Tallahassee and other marches are planned across the USA.

The Florida election didn't pass the smell test.

The epicenter of this crisis was Palm Beach County where an illegal butterfly ballot resulted in about 3,400 votes in a statewide election.

Democratic precinct going to Reform Candidate Pat Buchanan, who, himself, admitted he didn't think those votes belonged to him. His candid admission underscored the sentiments of many Jewish voters. Think how some must have felt thinking they were casting their vote for the first time for a Jewish vice president, only for it to be credited to Buchanan, a man, who

has made anti-Semitic statements. Also some 19,120 ballots were tossed out in that county because voters punched more than one hole on the bizarre butterfly ballot where the hole for Buchanan seemed more aligned with Gore's name.

Across the state, complaints of outrageous voter irregularities in precincts which favored Gore shocked even seasoned poll watchers. Poll workers turned away people with the explanation there were not enough ballots, polls were closed early despite long lines of voters, several unopened ballot boxes, including one at a Miami church, turned up days after the election. Also there were reports that the Highway Patrol pulled over Black drivers on the way to the poll requesting to see their drivers licenses. With so much documentation of Black motorists being harassed for driving while Black, what else could this be but voter intimidation?

The Bush team continued to shatter the principle of fairness at the polls by fighting to quickly block off all channels to a credible

recount. Bush's legal team went into federal court to block a hand count of votes even though the Governor had signed a Texas law that had counts were preferred to machine ones.

Why the rush? This is not the first time election recounts have occurred more than one week after the original date.

In 1992, a Florida mayoral race was decided over 11 days from the date of the original election, in 1998 a recount occurred over one week after a state legislative election took place and in 1996 a county commission race was decided by hand count weeks after the original election was held.

The rush to block the will of the people in Florida is unconscionable.

That move, of course, does not just pertain to Floridians, but to all who thought their ballot would add up to a fair count.

We must put the Constitution over convenience and reason over a rush to shutdown democracy. This matter is bigger than which is the better man, George W. Bush or Al Gore.

The larger issue is how we march forward as a democracy and how we are perceived in the world, when all voices and votes do not count in the election of the president of the United States.

Regarding the vote: This all happend before, and American blacks are still paying the price

By Herbert Harris, Jr.

In 1876, the presidential election between Rutherford B. Hayes, the Republican candidate and Samuel J. Tilden, the Democratic candidate ended very much like the present election between Al Gore and George Bush.

Gore, the Democratic candidate won the popular vote just as Tilden, the Democratic candidate had done in 1876. The vote was challenged in certain southern states, South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida.

As a result of the challenges, both parties claimed victory in the Electoral College. The challenges dragged out the process to the point that, in January 1877, an Electoral Count Bill was offered in the Congress to bring closure to the election and determine which of the candidates would be president. This bill set up a commission of eight Republicans and seven Democrats to settle the dispute.

The commission resolved the dispute along party lines, which greatly displeased the Democrats, causing them to threaten to block any decision of the commission until after inauguration Day.

The possibility of leaving the country without a president forced both parties to discuss terms, and finally reach a compromise. The Democrats agreed to give up all claims on the Presidency. In return, the Republicans promised to withdraw Federal troops from the South.

Upon taking office, President Hayes made good on his promise. He withdrew the Federal troops from the South and ended the Reconstruction. This action by the Republican President Hayes in effect, abandoned America's Black citizens to the clutches of the Ku Klux Klan and White Supremacist violence for the next 75 years.

Without the presence of Federal troops to protect the rights and lives of America's Black citizens in the South, the freedom and rights granted by the Emancipation Proclamation, the 14th and 15th Amendments to the US Constitution, and the Civil Rights

Act of 1875, were nullified and erased, almost as though they had never existed.

This abandonment of the rights and freedom of America's Black citizens initiated by the election of 1876 was legitimized and canonized by the US Supreme Court in 1883 when it ruled the Civil Rights Act of 1875 unconstitutional, and in 1896 when it ruled in Plessy v. Ferguson that separate but equal was constitutional.

By 1900, as a result of Jim Crow laws, the Ku Klux Klan, and institutional racism, America's Black citizens in the South were deprived of their right to vote, their human and civil rights, and were thus relegated to second class status which continues in many ways to this very day.

The NAACP hearings on how voters were treated in predominantly Black precincts in Florida raises the old cloud of racism and voter intimidation over the entire election process in that state. Throwing out 19,000 votes is a travesty of justice and a violation of those citizens' constitutional rights. The possibility for misunderstanding and error in the design of that particular ballot is so foreseeable and so great that it is hard not to believe it to be intentional.

It is important that the Presidential election be resolved as quickly as possible. But, this haste to resolution should not once again be at the expense of the voters in Florida, many of who were Black, whose voices have been violated, and whose voice has not been heard.

Based on the facts as revealed by the NAACP and various news agencies, it appears that the only fair way to remove the racist cloud that hangs over the Florida election process is to end the entire Florida election over, under the supervision of the Federal government. It is only in this way that the election flaws and irregularities that took place in the state of Florida can be removed, and confidence again restored to the election process.

Black Entertainment Television Fades to White

By George E. Curry

News that media giant Viacom, Inc. has purchased Black Entertainment Television for more than \$3 billion is great for its visionary founder, Robert L. Johnson, but it is a terrible blow to Africa-Americans interested in controlling their images in the media.

"I am really happy for Bob, and I am happy for Black country," Cathy Hughes, founder of Radio One, the largest African-American owned radio station, told The Washington Post. But, she added that the sale to a White-owned media giant "changes the identity and changes the perspective."

And that's precisely the point. Media critic A.J. Leibman said it best: "Freedom of the press is guaranteed only to those who own one." Now, Viacom owns BET and it has the freedom to do whatever it wants. BET will become part of Viacom's broadcast station that includes CBS, MeTV, VH1, UPN, Paramount Network and Nickelodeon.

Before we mourn the sale of BET, let's be candid. Many African-Americans were highly critical of the bump shaking that dominates BET's programming. As editor-in-chief of Emmerge, which was owned by BET, I took a "don't ask, don't tell" stance when questioned about the network's programming. We should acknowledge that although music videos ruled the day, what BET did with the time left over — "Lead Story," "BET Tonight with Ed Gordon," "BET Tonight with Tavis Smiley," "Heart & Soul," "Teen Summit" — as still more public affairs programming relevant to us than all the White networks and cable systems combined.

As a one-time regular panelist on "Lead Story" — a role reduced by BET once it allowed Vanguard Media, a subsidiary of BET, to close Emmerge last June — I was acutely aware of how rare it was to see an African-American journalist appear on the regular network Sunday morning shows. If you wanted to see Black journalists offering their perspectives on national news, you had to tune into "Lead Story," hosted by Cheryl Martin.

None of us should begrudge Bob Johnson for creating an empire that could command such

big bucks. He is, above all, a businessman. It's not so much about Black as it is green. BET got paid twice for essentially doing no work. The record companies paid the network up front to run their videos. BET also collected money on the back end, from fees paid to subscribers and cable systems. Not a bad arrangement if you can pull it off.

For all his business savvy, Bob Johnson did not fear controversy. He eluded BET's corporate office for the Million Man March, announced his support for the event in a full-page ad in USA Today, and broadcast from the march throughout the day. In the seven years I was editor of Emmerge — whether we were running Clarence Thomas on the cover or a love jockey or Ward Connerly as a puppet — Bob Johnson never flinched.

Now, my fear is that Bob Johnson will not be able to make the same kind of decisions without first obtaining the approval of his new owners. BET has joined the growing list of Black-owned companies that have been purchased by White corporations. Some say it is nothing more than them doing what White businesses have traditionally done: grow your product so that it is successful enough to attract top dollar from a suitor with deep pockets. If giants such as Exxon and Mobil had merged, the argument goes, why should Black firms think they should be exempt from forces of the marketplace?

To his credit, Bob Johnson seems to have cut the best possible deal. He has sold his core company for \$3 billion but will remain BET's chairman and chief executive officer after the sale is finalized early next year. That may be good for now, but not necessarily in the future. What happens upon Bob Johnson's death when there won't be anyone left who can wield his clout?

In addition, though Bob Johnson appears to have retained primary control over what will be aired by BET, he still must report to Viacom President and CEO Mel Kamazin. Viacom officials can do whatever they want. That's what owners do. And the bottom line is that BET is no longer primarily owned by an African-American.

Black Cops No Antidote To Police Violence

By Earl Ofari Hutchinson

Anthony Dwayne Lee told a friend that he feared that he would be killed by the police because he's a tall Black man. The promising and popular, young film and TV actor's worst horror became a deadly reality when he was gunned down by an LAPD officer at a Halloween costume party in Los Angeles. The officer claimed that he fired on Lee through the window of the home where Lee pointed a gun at him. The gun was fake. Partygoers instantly disputed the police version and said that Lee could not have seen the officer through the window. The killing had an even more tragic twist that Lee probably could not imagine. The officer that shot him, Tarniel Hoper, was a Black male.

A Black cop killing an unarmed Black under highly questionable circumstances is no longer a white phenomenon. In the past two years, Black cops have gunned down unarmed Blacks in Chicago, Cincinnati, Atlanta, Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Los Angeles. The irony is that Black leaders have long clamored for more Black cops. A recent report by the U.S. Justice Department found that a majority of white cops did not think that police were more prone to treat Blacks more harshly than whites. A sizable number of Black cops agreed. Despite massive public attention and outrage over the blue code of silence, the Justice Department survey found that eighty percent of police officers either believed the code of silence was necessary to control police work or feared retaliation from other officers or even the brass if they squealed on bad cops. Black cops were no more anxious to come forth to report misconduct by other officers than white cops out of fear of not being seen as a team player or that protesting abuse would damage their career.

Worse, many Black cops are also infected with the "us versus them" police siege mentality and will commit and then attempt to cover up their misconduct or brutal acts. The problem of Blacks using

deadly force against other Blacks will probably get worse. Since the 1970s the number of Black officers has soared. There are now more Blacks on big city police forces than ever before. Many of them are young, inexperienced, recent recruits who had only been on the LAPD three years. Many of them are often assigned to work in low income, Black neighborhoods. Since it's a sad, but undeniable fact that Black and Latino males commit more major and violent crimes than any other group, police are convinced that Black communities are a dangerous, and risky place where violent thugs abound and every encounter is potentially life threatening.

Criminal justice experts agree that no matter how much training officers get, how they react in a situation on the streets depends on their own apprehensions and prejudices and that police work tends to aggravate whatever prejudices they have. Many Black officers have those same prejudices as whites. They do not live in or grew up in impoverished Black neighborhoods and see them as hostile and alien places. Many of them are just as jittery as white cops at the prospect of an armed encounter with other Blacks.

But it's not just Black cops that kill other Blacks that's a growing problem; it's also the blind spot many Black police officials have toward the shooting of unarmed Blacks.

While other big city police departments in California and throughout the nation have agreed to stop packing guns on stops, Police Chief Bernard Parks resists. He lobbied hard in 1999 to get California Governor Gray Davis to veto a bill that would mandate that law enforcement agencies collect racial data to determine if police do profile Blacks and Latinos. Davis believed that he would be killed because he was Black. He did not know that he would be killed by a Black officer. But he was and that's a warning to Blacks that Black cops no answer to the corrosive problem of police violence.

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How to reach us: City News 112 Main Street, Suite 110, Newark, NJ 07102
Editorial: (973) 642-4000 Fax: (973) 642-5444 e-mail: cnews@earthlink.net

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Harambee Center announces Destiny 2001

EAST ORANGE—The East Orange based Harambee Center has announced their Destiny 2001 Capital Campaign. The Center's executive director Renee Hooks said "We have a firm foundation in the educational programs and services our Family Academy is providing. It is now time for Harambee to expand and diversify our support base and programs. We envision programming which will benefit all segments of our community."

"The Harambee Center will be hosting receptions and tours of our facility to expose the center to community leaders, foundations, corporate executives, philanthropists and others interested in our vision," she said.

Harambee is a Swahili word, which means, "Bringing together the resources of a village to make that village a better place for all the residents to live and grow." In East Orange, the approximately 900 members of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church wanted Harambee. And so, in 1994, under the leadership of Senior Pastor Robert N. Burkins Sr., the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, formed the Harambee Community Development Initiative, Inc.

The Harambee Community Development Initiative Inc. is a faith based, not-for-profit, community development corporation. Harambee's mission is to work with residents of East Orange to address the many pressing needs of the city.

The Harambee Community Development Initiative, Inc. is making a major impact in the lives of East Orange residents.

In 1996, shortly after forming the Harambee Corporation, the Elmwood church, with the help of the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority, and the Newark Presbytery, purchased and renovated a 21,000 square foot, three story, commercial office building at a cost of nearly one million dollars. Located at 60 Glenwood Ave. in East Orange, this attractive office building has been transformed into the newly renovated, "Harambee Center."

There are many pressing needs in the city of East Orange and its surrounding townships; one of which is education. Poor test scores and low graduations rates of senior high school students in the East Orange School District is one of the reasons the Harambee Board of Directors chose education as its primary focus. In 1997 Harambee made its first inroads into education by establishing the Harambee Family Academy, located on the first floor of the Harambee Center. The Harambee Family Academy is a licensed day care center with a capacity to serve 80 children. The Academy provides childcare and educational services to both private pay families and families supported by General Assistance from the state. Since its opening in 1997, the Harambee Family Academy has developed a reputation for providing quality child care and pre-school education in 1999. As a result of its accomplishments in

the field of pre-school education, the Harambee Family Academy entered into a partnership with the East Orange Board of Education to provide pre-kindergarten classes for three and four year old children under New Jersey's Abbott program. The Abbott program mandates free public school instruction for pre-schoolers in cities such as East Orange.

Volunteers play a major role in the success of the Harambee Family Academy. Over 20 volunteers work daily with parents and staff to assist in education and nurturing the Harambee Family Academy children. The wisdom, patience and loving presence of these volunteers, many of whom are senior citizens and members of Elmwood United Presbyterian church, creates an extended family dimension at Harambee and strengthens intergenerational bonds in the community.

The volunteer corps is not limited to the Harambee Family Academy. Other volunteers including Americorp workers, and high school students, assist with administrative, serve as receptionists, and put in many hours to assure that the entire Harambee Corporation runs smoothly.

Harambee is a Swahili word which means:
"Bringing together the resources of a village to make that village a better place for all the residents to live and grow."

Get involved:
To become a volunteer or to make donations, call (973) 675-5000

By developing significant partnerships between churches, business corporations and other community organizations, Harambee continues to grow and looks forward to future expansion.

Already, the staff has grown from one full time executive director in 1996 to 14 positions including a full-time administrative assistant, a part-time development consultant, a part-time assistant, four full-time teachers, and seven part-time teacher aids. Given the desire for growth, Harambee is now turning its attention toward further program development to maximize the use of its renovated facility. Plans are now underway to establish the Harambee After School Program, which will extend Harambee childcare and educational opportunities to up to 70 elementary school age children. The after school program will include a state of the art computer technology center where students will develop computer skills and be able to explore new technology that will help them function effectively and compete in the new millennium. Extracurricular activities offered by the Harambee After School Program will include dance, music, and karate classes. A state-of-the-art health spa—which will help students and parents care for their bodies, as well as their minds—will also be available. The Harambee After School Center will be



Pictured left to right: Assemblyman Leroy Jones congratulates team behind the success of Harambee Center, Executive Director Renee Hooks, Board of Trustee Chair Reverend Diane Givens Moffett, Pastor of Elmwood United Presbyterian Church & Harambee Board Member Rev. Robert N. Burkins Sr.

Both photos are by Billy Jones

housed on the second floor of the Harambee Center, which is currently being prepared for this purpose. The after school center will serve as a safe haven for elementary school age students many of whom are latch key children who currently stay at home after school without adult supervision.

As stated earlier, Harambee's primary focus is education. However, that is not all Harambee is about. Providing community residents with marketable job skills is a natural offshoot of Harambee's educational objective. Currently, the Harambee Center's second floor also houses a state of the art commercial kitchen and small dining room. Proudly referred to as Café Harambee, this facility serves as a private meeting space for community groups and organizations. Future plans for Café Harambee include a training program where residents may acquire skills in basic food preparation, as well as waitressing and waitressing.

Prophetic, biblical wisdom states that "Without a vision the people perish." As you can see, there is no shortage of vision in the Harambee community Development Initiative, Inc. Harambee is excited about the vision that has been cast, and is looking forward to the development and expansion of programs that will help meet the pressing needs of the East Orange Village.

Harambee needs you.

The Harambee Board of Directors have launched Destiny 2001, capital funds campaign designed to raise \$200,000 over the next year to help with the expansion of the after school program, and Café Harambee's Training Program. Join the many funders including the Elmwood United Presbyterian Church, the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority, The Presbytery of Newark, the Turrell Fund, The Daniloff Foundation, and other corporations, foundations, and individual donors who support Harambee with their financial gifts.

Your individual gift of \$100, (steel) \$500 (bronze) and/or corporate financial gift of \$1000, (silver) \$2,500 (gold) \$5,000 (platinum) or more will help Harambee in its effort to serve the East Orange community and surrounding townships.

If you are currently working, check with your corporation to see if there is a matching grant program. Many businesses will match gifts that employees make to non-profit organizations.

In kind contributions of new or like-new equipment, including computers and state of the art exercise gym machines, would help to supply the After School Program and Health spa with much needed equipment.

For more information about the Harambee Community Development Initiative, Inc. and its programs, call (973) 675-5000.



Pictured left to right: Harambee Center Executive Director Renee Hooks is congratulated by City News Publisher Dr. Henry Johnson on Destiny 2001 Capital Campaign.

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BRIEFS

Juror pay increase proposed

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Juror's pay would finally go up almost 50 years after it was first set under a new statute that advanced in the state Senate.

Jurors are currently paid \$5 per day no matter how long they serve.

Under S-566, the rate would increase to \$40 per day after the third day of service. The \$5 daily rate would still apply for the first three days.

The bill was approved by the Senate budget committee and now heads to the full Senate for action.

State Police stepping up racial profiling probes of 10 troopers

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — New Jersey State Police Superintendent Col. Carson Dunbar has stepped up an internal investigation of 10 troopers suspected of falsifying records, according to a published report.

State prosecutors decided about eight months ago to not seek criminal charges against the 10 troopers suspected of changing records to cover up racial profiling allegations. The charges were referred by the Attorney General's Office for administrative action.

A police union official told the paper that at least two of the 10 troopers received calls from internal affairs investigators last week. David Jones, vice president of the State Troopers Fraternal Association of New Jersey, said he believes Dunbar is trying to protect himself from criticism by minority leaders concerning racial profiling claims.

"Why, when the ink was still wet and witnesses were still fresh, wasn't this matter put forward?" Jones told The Record of Hackensack.

"If the public had concerns that the troopers were out there engaging in racial profiling, wasn't it in the best interest of the public and the troopers to resolve it quickly and either confirm or disprove the allegations?" he asked.

Dunbar declined to comment on "pending investigations," but told the paper that complicated cases can take a year or longer to resolve. "I am concerned about the delay in investigations," Dunbar said. "However, what is more important to me is that the investigations be thorough and fair to both the trooper and the complainant."

Lawyers representing James Kenna and John Hogan, the two troopers accused in a 1998 turnpike shooting, said Dunbar's decision to move ahead on the 10 cases is an attempt to chip away at their defense strategy.

Cops: Woman stole car, owners suspected of filing false theft report

BOGOTA, N.J. (AP) — Angry at the owners of a car who failed her attempt to steal it, a Paterson woman called police, falsely reporting she'd been carjacked.

But Anette Lawson's story unraveled quickly, and police soon charged her with a variety of offenses last Friday, including filing a false police report.

Police said Lawson, 41, eventually admitted she stole a blue BMW in Paterson, only to lose the car to its owners, who chased her down and pulled her from the driver's seat.

Police responded to a local bar, where they found a rain-soaked Lawson sipping a drink. Sepp said. She told police she was getting out of her car when two men approached her from behind and took the vehicle at gunpoint.

She claimed she walked to the bar and called police, who broadcast a description of the stolen car. But they became suspicious when she gave them several different license plate numbers, none of which was registered to a blue BMW.

"She didn't know if it was a New York or New Jersey registration, even though she supposedly owned the car," Sepp said.

Lawson is charged with filing a false police report, obstructing justice, creating fictitious reports, disorderly conduct, and being under the influence of a controlled dangerous substance. She was being held in the Bergen County Jail on \$2,500 bail.

Democrats firm up with McGreevey

Party hopes to end North-South rift with appointment of Camden Assemblyman Roberts

By Ralph Siegel

Associated Press Writer

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Democrats have decided they must avoid a bitter primary next year as they throw all their weight behind candidate Jim McGreevey for governor.

At a news conference they even went so far as to name a southern New Jersey lawmaker, Assemblyman Joe Roberts of Camden, to become the next state party chairman. The move was intended to heal the rift between northern and southern Democratic factions.

"Obviously there still may be other potential candidates, but I think today we strongly expressed our view for a strongly unified party," McGreevey said. "Now we have to discipline ourselves, provide a unified front and talk to those in the North and South to middle-class New Jerseyans."

Roberts will serve as deputy chairman under Democratic chairman Tom Giblin, who has agreed to step down when his term

expires next June to make way for Roberts.

Roberts and Camden County executive power broker George Norcross were the lead players in the southern rebellion against Giblin and the Democratic Party mainstream.

Tensions reached a peak in this year's June primary for U.S. Senate. The southern faction backed former Gov. Jim Florio in his losing bid against U.S. Sen. elect Jon Corzine.

Thus, Roberts' selection recently as chairman-to-be accomplishes several things:

It will end tensions in the Assembly, where Democrats from south of Trenton have been boycotting party caucuses run by minority leader Joe Doria, a Hudson County assemblyman. Roberts said he and the others would rejoin the full caucus at a recent Assembly session.

It cements the fact the party establishment, 20 counties from both ends of the state, is behind McGreevey as its first choice for governor. In the last two

years for statewide office, Democrats had battles in the primaries that left hard feelings.

It shows confidence by mainstream Democrats that McGreevey will be named the nominee in the June 5 primary, as if winning votes were an afterthought. While Giblin, McGreevey and others spoke of the Roberts appointment as if it were theirs to make, the idea of naming for governor before announcing in September that he would not.

Even U.S. Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J., was on hand to praise and formally endorse McGreevey three months after his own short-lived litigation with running for governor. "Jim and I have been very dear friends for 35 of the past 36 months," Torricelli said.

Torricelli, who is only four years into his first term, angered McGreevey by announcing in July he might run for governor and would urge McGreevey to drop out. Feeding the rift, officials allied with Roberts and Norcross promptly endorsed Torricelli.

Roberts echoed Giblin. "Jim McGreevey knows that he is effectively the nominee of the party. That is a hurdle which he has jumped over. That means no disrespect to the process," he said. McGreevey ran a close race

against Republican Gov. Christie Whitman in 1997 and has worked tirelessly since then to position himself to run for her open seat in 2001 since under law Whitman cannot serve a third consecutive term.

The only county not committed to McGreevey is Passaic, where the leading Democrat, U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell, had flirted with the idea of running for governor before announcing in September that he would not.

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McGreevey

McGreevey scrambled to shore up Essex County support and box out Torricelli, who then dropped out as abruptly as he had dropped in. At the next prominent party meeting during the Democratic National Convention in Los Angeles, the two men publicly embraced as a sign of peace.

Defense questions reveal flaws in case against Orange officers

By Jeffrey Gold

Associated Press Writer

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Officers whose testimony might crack the so-called "blue wall of silence" have not yet taken the stand against five Orange police charged with brutalizing a man they mistakenly thought killed a colleague.

Yet the first week of testimony revealed cracks in the prosecution's civil rights case.

A former waitress who said she thought the suspect, Earl Faison, was dead after being kicked on the street also said she was at work when records show he had already been taken to the police station.

And the officer who chased and arrested Faison, who was not on trial, testified he was lying down recovering from the struggle, and so could not see whether his back-up mistreated the suspect.

Faison died in custody less than an hour after being arrested. The officers are not charged with causing his death, which medical experts attributed to an asthma attack.

Faison, 27, of East Orange, was one of four black men detained in the death of Officer Joyce Carmegie in the days following her shooting.

The investigation brought additional criticism of already embattled Essex County Prosecutor Patricia A. Hurt, who was later removed.

Condell Woodson later confessed to the crime and is serving a life sentence.

The trial is expected to continue to mid-December, but the early developments trouble East Orange police Sgt. Delacy Davis, founder of Black Cops Against Police Brutality, which has supported Faison's survivors.

"I'm afraid to think of what the outcome will be," Davis said this week. He said his uncertainty is heightened by the dismissal last month of attempted murder charges against two state troopers who shot at a van carrying four young minority men on the New Jersey Turnpike.

"You know, what's frustrating to me is I'm seeing this pattern across the country, black and Latino males particularly, being snatched," Davis said. "I'm concerned, because I'm raising a black child, as are many of my friends."

He believes the trial will expose shortcomings in the management of the Orange Police Department.

"I know that when an officer has lost his or her life, the atmosphere is frenzied. If there are clear lines of command and control, there is the ability and opportunity for those who are in that frenzied environment to cross that line. I believe that happened," Davis said.

Some officers, including one of those on trial, Tyrone Payton,

should not have been on the case because of their close relationship with Carmegie, Davis said.

Payton, the only black officer on trial, is accused of pointing his service handgun at Faison's head, saying, "Why did you have to do it? Why did you have to kill her?" Assistant U.S. Attorney Patty Shwartz told the jury last week.

He then took money from Faison's pockets and said it should be given to Carmegie's mother, but the money was never accounted for, said the prosecutor, who described the actions of the five officers as "retribution."

In testimony this week, former waitress Carmen Espichan said she saw at least five officers by Faison when she got to her sister's home after work the night of April 11, 1999, three days after Carmegie was shot and killed while on duty.

One officer knelt on Faison's back to handcuff the struggling man, said Espichan, 21.

At one point, another officer brought "his right leg back as if to kick a ball" and kicked Faison twice on the top of the head while shouting for him to "shut up," she said.

Then another officer ordered her off the street, she testified.

She could not identify the officers, but said all were white except one black officer, who did the kicking.

Inconsistencies arose under defense questioning, including the time element and what various officers were doing at the scene.

The arresting officer, Sgt. Brian David, said he gave chase after Faison fled a taxi he had approached.

The defense maintains Faison ran because he knew he was violating his parole by carrying an automatic handgun with hollow-point bullets.

Faison tossed the gun, refusal to submit and began grappling with David, the officer said.

The sergeant said that he could be responsible for some of the scrapes and bruises seen on Faison's face in an autopsy photo graph.

"It could have happened on the ground," David told the jury. "I threw him to the ground a couple of times. I was in a fight for my life. I used necessary force."

David also testified that he found Faison inhaling while frisking a handcuffed Faison.

The sergeant offered no explanation, however, when confronted by a defense lawyer with an FBI report in which David told agents he had no reason to believe Faison was carrying an inhaler.

On trial are Lt. Thomas Smith, 37, of Caldwell, who retired last year; Officers Paul Capinperi Jr., 36, of Orange; Andrew Garth, 31, of Bloomfield; Payton, 30, of Orange; and Brian Smith, 30, of Orange. The Smiths are brothers.

The active officers have been suspended without pay. All remain

free on bond.

All five face a charge of conspiring to deprive Faison of his civil rights by causing "serious bodily injury."

Payton faces three counts of depriving Faison of his civil rights, while each of the others face one count of depriving Faison of his civil rights. Each count carries up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine.

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Rutgers considers admissions cap

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — Rutgers University officials are considering putting a cap on admissions, saying the university already faces overcrowding problems that are likely to worsen as the college-age population grows.

University president Francis Lawrence said last Friday that Rutgers is preparing a report to examine ways it could deal with capacity problems at its New Brunswick, Camden and Newark campuses. He spoke at a meeting of the university's governing board.

Lawrence said proposals include limiting admissions and asking the state for more money to build additional dormitories, parking lots and other facilities.

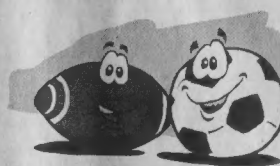
The report is expected to be

completed in January and will be used in discussions with the state legislature and governor about the future of the state's largest university, Lawrence said.

Rutgers already has increased enrollment by about 2,000 students since 1996, and applications are up 25 percent from a decade ago. Education experts predict a 25 percent increase in the number of New Jersey high school graduates over the next decade.

But Rutgers' proposal would likely raise questions about whether state-funded colleges, many of whom say they are already turning away qualified applicants, violate their mission to provide an education to taxpayers by capping admissions.

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White police officers accused of brutality against blacks

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Six white police officers accused of beating blacks and beating them are to remain in custody, a judge ordered on Thursday.

Five of the six will remain in detention until Nov. 17, when they will apply for bail.

One, Sgt. Jacobus Smith, will be allowed to be admitted to a hospital of his choice because he is infected with a rare virus, the South African Press Association reported.

The six have been charged with attempted murder for a videotaped attack in which they allegedly set up to four police dogs on three black illegal immigrants, ostensibly as part of an exercise to train young dogs to be aggressive.

The six have been suspended without pay.

The tape, recorded in 1998 and broadcast on South African Broadcasting Corp. news Tuesday, showed the officers

punching the victims when they tried to defend themselves. The bleeding victims, their clothes in tatters, were then forced to stand in a line as some of the officers punched them. The officers were heard shouting racial slurs.

The six were arrested Tuesday. On Wednesday, Justice Minister Bennell Mafema issued a statement saying he would speak to the nation's chief prosecutor to ensure that bail is "vigorously opposed."

The case has sparked outrage across the nation, with politicians and others calling for harsh punishment of the six and reinforced efforts to battle racism.

Tony Leon, leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, said the scenes on the videotape belonged to the "heyday of apartheid and have no place in the present South Africa." Police often used dogs to attack black people during South Africa's racist apartheid regime, which ended in 1994.

Rutgers HB Dennis Thomas overcame deaths of father and step-father

By Tom Canavan
AP Sports Writer

PISCATAWAY, N.J. (AP) — If anyone deserves to know the joy of winning, it is Rutgers halfback Dennis Thomas.

The junior from Salem ran 21 times for 114 yards and a touchdown and he caught seven passes for 91 in a wild 31-24 overtime loss to West Virginia on Veteran's Day.

Both the rushing yardage and the receptions were season-highs for Thomas, and what made the performance so remarkable was they came after one of the worst 10-day periods of Thomas' life. His father, Claude Andrews, 64, died on Nov. 1. His stepfather, Virgil Bradley, 64, died on Nov. 2.

His coach Terry Shea, who Thomas' considers a father figure, was forced to resign under pressure on Nov. 3, with the resignation taking effect at the end of the season.

After shedding his tears and consoling his family, Thomas returned to practice late Wednesday and then stepped up on Saturday, although it wasn't enough for Rutgers (3-6, 0-6 Big East).

"It was tough going out there," Thomas said. "I thought it wouldn't hurt me. I kept saying, 'I'm

all right. I'm all right. I'm a warrior.' But when I got on the field it was tough emotionally for me."

The first half didn't do anything to help Thomas as West Virginia opened a 10-0 halftime lead. The Mountaineers expanded the margin to 17-0 on the first series of the second half.

But Rutgers and Thomas responded. "The first half we didn't have much intensity," Thomas said. "We didn't execute, but in the second half coach Shea gave us a good talk and we went out there and started to execute."

Thomas ignited the comeback with a 15-yard touchdown run on which he broke two tackles early in the fourth quarter. He also caught a 13-yard pass and had another 15-yard run on the 71-yard drive.

A 4-yard touchdown pass from Mike McMahon to Aaron Martin closed the gap to 17-14 with 8:43 to play.

Thomas then seemed to write a storybook ending to the game.

On a fourth and 1 from the West Virginia 43 with just over five minutes left in the fourth quarter, Thomas caught a little swing pass in the right flat after a play-action fake. With L.J. Smith leading the way, Thomas ran down the right sidelines and dove into the corner of the end zone for what

appeared to be a go-ahead touchdown.

Two officials signaled touchdown and Rutgers' offense left the field.

However, the officials conferred and changed the call, ruling Thomas out of bounds at the 1-yard line.

That didn't seem to be a big call until Rick Sherrerd intercepted McMahon on third and goal at the goal line.

Thomas refused to criticize the officials but felt he scored.

"We have a drill 'R-U attack' and while I was going to the end zone I attacked the defender," Thomas said. "I ran toward him, ran toward the field and then I dove."

Thomas, who had only rushed for 256 yards on 74 carries in eight games, said the two officials closest to the corner of the end zone signaled touchdown. Another came from across the field and ruled him out of bounds.

Rutgers managed to tie the game on a partially blocked 26-yard field goal on the final play of regulation but West Virginia won in overtime.

"It was tough emotionally for me, but I was able to come around," Thomas said. "Coach Shea said: 'Hey guy, play with your heart and spirit.'"

Joint Center Launches 'Alliance For Racial Healing'

Knights Foundation gave \$900,000 in 3-year grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies launched the Network of Alliances Bridging Race and Ethnicity (NABRE), a vehicle for assisting local leaders around the country in their efforts to overcome racial and ethnic divisions.

A key component is the NABRE section on the Joint Center's website (www.jointcenter.org), which will maintain a membership directory, resource links, and other interactive features.

It is supported chiefly with a \$900,000 three-year grant from John S. and James L. Knight Foundation — the first award the Joint Center has received from the foundation. Initial support for the planning of NABRE came from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and it has also received support from DaimlerChrysler, the Ford Motor Co., the Joyce Foundation, the Kovler Foundation, and Mitsubishi Motors.

The view the formation of NABRE as a natural outgrowth of the work done by President Clinton's White House Initiative on Race," said Eddie N. Williams, president and CEO of

the Joint Center. "NABRE creates a diverse coalition of individuals and community initiatives around the country that previously often worked in isolation and with limited resources. Its interactive component also encourages leaders to share information in a way that was not possible before."

NABRE (pronounced "neighbor") allows leaders of community based racial reconciliation organizations to share "best practices" for confronting common challenges, to effectively measure their progress and gather information for long-term planning, to broaden the base of support for their communities' activities, and to recruit new leaders in communities throughout the country.

"The Knight Foundation's support of this project rests on the oldest of American realities and an enduring national necessity: in a nation of many creeds, races and ethnic backgrounds, tying its disparate strands together in shared community is vital to the nation's health," said Hedding Carter III, president and CEO of the Knight Foundation. "By networking the many organizations which work toward this end across the land, the Joint Center promises to advance the timeless goal of E Pluribus Unum."

Thought wouldn't discuss of white flight in Detroit

By Alexandra R. Moses
Associated Press Writer

BLOOMFIELD HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Detroit's resurgence has less to do with the reversal of white flight than the unwillingness of a community to let its city die, a local activist said.

"Detroit has gone through the most critical period of its struggle ... But it's a survivor," Arthur Johnson, former president of the Detroit branch of the NAACP, said Thursday during a panel discussion on Detroit during and since the 1960s.

"We can't live with the death of a city,"

Johnson, activist General Baker and Wayne State University political science professor Orlan spoke in response to an exhibition at the Cranbrook Art Museum entitled "White Flight."

The video installation by Mats Hjelm is a split screen, with 1957 not footage taken by his late father Lars Hjelm on one side, 1997 footage taken by Mats Hjelm on the other.

With opera music blaring, black-and-white footage shows helmeted National Guardsmen solemnly marching down a city sidewalk while a black youth walks backward in front of them. There are images of burning

buildings and a child running down a littered city street.

To the left are the color images shot by Mats Hjelm, depicting broken down buildings, fires, and police, as well as interviews with former black leaders reflecting on the last 30 years.

Much of the panel discussion centered on whether the riots, which left 33 blacks and 10 whites dead, were the catalyst for white flight and the decay of the city that today has thousands of abandoned buildings.

"The image of Detroit ... was made frightening to whites," Johnson said. "It was treated in a way that few cities have been treated. It was made the ghetto."

After the late 1950s, many of Detroit's jobs and nearly half of its people left, driven out by the decline of the Big Three automakers.

The 1967 riots began several hours after police raided an after-hours club, arresting patrons in its barroom.

A force of 17,000 men from the Michigan National Guard, the Michigan State Police and Detroit police had been called in.

Feinstein argued that what happened in Detroit was less white flight stemming from the riots than a policy of urban development that shifted focus to the suburbs and left behind those who had come to the city for jobs — namely, blacks from the south.

"When you let the inner city do the dogs you can buy real estate for practically nothing," said Feinstein, questioning whether what appears to be a reversal of white flight, in the form of corporate interest — in the casinos, Compuware Corp., General Motors Corp.'s commit-

ment to the city — will reverse the damages done to the city.

"True people are moving back, but will it ever be enough? Are you going to have pockets of affluence in these pockets of poverty?" he said.

Baker further noted that the closing of auto plants in the area in the years after the riots further aggravated flight.

A union activist and autoworker who was arrested on the first day of the riots for a curfew violation, Baker said corporations are just taking gambles on a needy city that won't work out every time, as in the case of City Airport, whose most recent occupant, Pro Air Inc., has been grounded.

But Johnson said he looks to the city's future with optimism.

"It is on its way to becoming the city on the hill," he said.

At U.N., Civil Rights leaders highlight U.S. racial biases at World Forum

By Mithra J. Sandrasagra

NEW YORK (IPS) — Prominent United States civil rights leaders presented a hard-hitting petition at U.N. headquarters highlighting the persistence of race bias against minorities under successive administrations.

Frustrated by the lack of response at the state or federal level to endemic racial discrimination in the criminal justice system, civil rights leaders are now bringing the issue before the United Nations. Wade Henderson, executive director of the Leadership Council for Civil Rights, told reporters.

This "Call to Action" — coming on the 53rd anniversary of W.E.B. Du Bois' historic presentation of the first Call to the fledgling United Nations to take up the issue of racial discrimination — "represents our sincere conviction that we have exhausted our domestic remedies in the United States," stressed Julian Bond, chairperson of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

The forceful petition of more than 50 signatories — African-American, Arab-American, Latino and Native-American civil rights advocates joined by women's rights advocates and educators — appealed to Mary Robinson, U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, in her capacity as Secretary-General of the World Conference against Racism, to address issues of racial discrimination common in the United States and to galvanize international assistance in pressing U.S. authorities to implement a comprehensive plan for combating them.

"Our political leaders speak loudly about human rights abuses in the rest of the world. They should start by offering a more concrete strategy for eliminating racial discrimination at home — and the world should hold them accountable," Henderson emphasized.

The Call to Action urges the world body to investigate racial discrimination in the administration of the death penalty, with respect to racial profiling and lack of police accountability in the United States.

Furthermore, the United Nations is asked to remind the United States of its binding treaty obligations, under the International Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, to end racial discrimination.

The United States ratified that treaty in 1994.

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Boys and Girls Club of Newark receives grants from Nets Foundation

NEWARK — The New Jersey Nets Foundation donated \$35,000 to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark today to be used toward renovations to the Clubs' Broadway Unit gymnasium. The grant was awarded during a check presentation at the Broadway Unit.

In making the donation, the New Jersey Nets Foundation is following through on its commitment to help revitalize the state's underserved communities by investing in New Jersey's youth.

For more than 20 years, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark, Newark Public School System, Project Pride Inc. and North Ward Cultural Center have partnered their resources to help provide more youth-oriented recreational and educational programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark, including the Small-Fry, Sprite and Pee-Wee basketball leagues. The New Jersey Nets Foundation's grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs will help make necessary repairs to the Broadway Unit's facility to ensure that these vital environments for Newark's youth are maintained.

"We are pleased to be able to support such an important resource to the Newark community," said Patricia Goodrich, Executive Director of the New Jersey Nets Foundation. "The importance of investing in underserved youth is crucial to the long term social and economic growth of our state."

"With the New Jersey Nets Foundation's grant, we will be able to provide our community's youth with more recreational and high-

technology educational programs in a convenient and accessible location," said Myles Varley, Executive Director of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark.

In April, Coordinator of Athletics for the Newark Public School System Joseph DiVincenzo, Volunteer Director for Project Pride Inc. and Essex County Freeholder Board President, began working with the New Jersey Nets Foundation because he saw the Foundation as a good partner to enhance the numerous youth basketball programs and community partnerships at the Clubs, Varley said. DiVincenzo has long been a supporter of youth programs at the Boys & Girls Clubs, founding the Small-Fry youth basketball league at the Clubs 22 years ago.

"In working with the New Jersey Nets Foundation, it seems that the Foundation and programs like next week's Pride Bowl share a common mission: to help provide Newark's youth with more opportunities and resources to grow, learn and succeed," said DiVincenzo.

The grant will fund the installation of new light fixtures and a repainting of the gymnasium, as well as retooling portions of the facility's basketball court. The renovations began in early September and are expected to be completed within three weeks.

To help organize today's youth basketball leagues at the Boys & Girls Clubs, the Newark School System provides transportation for the children. Project Pride Inc. funds traveling outside the city, and the North Ward Cultural Center provides staff members and

day-to-day management of the Small-Fry and Pee-Wee leagues.

"It is the combined efforts of the many community organizations involved that help to enhance these vital programs for our community's youth," said DiVincenzo.

The New Jersey Nets Foundation's grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Newark follows on the heels of the Foundation's recent donation of new band uniforms to the Malcolm X Shabazz High School - a commitment that was made to the high school during President Clinton's trip to Newark last year.

In addition, the New Jersey Nets Foundation recently expanded the New Jersey Nets Scholarship Program to provide 125 New Jersey students with academic scholarships to colleges and universities in the state. The Foundation also awards the annual Drazen Petrovic Memorial Scholarship.

"The New Jersey Nets Foundation has been crucial in helping to provide Newark's youth with more educational opportunities," said Martin Bolden, Superintendent of Schools, Newark Public School System.

Currently, funding for the Nets Foundation emanates from the Community Youth Organization, an entity that is a stockholder in YankeeNets, wherein the investors have committed profits to scholarships and other activities benefiting urban youth in New Jersey.

The New Jersey Nets Foundation is committed to the revitalization and rebuilding of

underprivileged communities in New Jersey by investing in at-risk youth. The Foundation will provide New Jersey's youth with access to five essential blocks of development: a caring adult, a healthy start, safe and structured environments, effective education for marketable skills and opportunities to serve their communities.

The New Jersey Nets Foundation currently funds the Nets Scholars Program, providing needy students with partial scholarships to New Jersey colleges, and the Drazen Petrovic Memorial Scholarship. In addition, the Foundation contributes to New Jersey charities in the New Jersey area via limited monetary donations and Nets promotional items, in conjunction with the Nets Community Affairs department.

The New Jersey Nets Foundation has also made a major commitment to Malcolm X Shabazz High School of Newark, New Jersey. As part of this commitment, the Nets purchased 25 computers for the school's Learning Center and library, as well as new uniforms and instruments for the school's marching band and music program. The Shabazz Band has been a featured attraction at several Nets home games during the season.

The New Jersey Nets Foundation is working with various partners to underwrite the cost of a School Based Youth Services Program at Shabazz High School, which will physically construct a clinic within the school for the Fall 2000 term.

Soldiers killed

Continued from page A-1

Thanks to this eye-opening opus, The History Channel investigated further and prepared an expose' on this incident originally slated to run on December 3rd, entitled The Mississippi Massacre. However, the show has suddenly been removed from the Network's schedule until further notice.

When I called the publicity department they refused to comment as to why, leaving that subject to suspicious speculation.

Who might have exerted pressure on the Network to quash an inflammatory program which would show the Pentagon in the worst possible light? What do I have to do, draw you a picture? I, for one, would like the show to air, because ultimately, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free."

However, don't hold your breath. In fact, don't be surprised if Carroll Case's book disappears, too, especially if it is an accurate chronicle of a shameful part of American history.

For, in war, the truth is always the first casualty.

Selling black-owned businesses

Continued from page A-1

American viewers is quite another. In short, many African Americans believe that having media control over Black images and culture with in a larger culture that often portrays Blacks in negative or imbalanced light is worth more than the relatively short term gains of the Viacom deal. The protest is fueled by the ranker of Black audiences enraged by content that goes out of its way to portray Blacks in the worst light possible.

On that note, it's the issue of content that makes the African-American community's relationship with BET so complicated. While most Blacks supported BET as a Black-owned company, they also flinched at the derogatory images and poor pay scales that Johnson's

BET administered. To bring BET to task for its programming choices, which helped the company post revenues of more than \$200 million annually, may be unfair because in that respect it is no different than its peers MTV or HBO. But because BET is Black-owned company, African Americans hold its directors to a higher standard. It didn't happen.

It remains to be seen how the editorial content of figures such as Minister Farnham and the Rev. Al Sharpton and other decidedly Black social and political issues are treated under Viacom. Though Johnson retains top billing at the company he started, someone else gets to call the shots.

Which revisits the point of Black

community and what's to be gained/lost from deals like this. Several points cannot be overlooked: First, in addition to loss of control of the product or service lose unique training grounds for new, young African American professionals. Many Blacks who started in television and film media and worked with BET benefited when they moved on to larger companies. They got opportunities they may not have gotten without BET. The same is true for any Black company in any industry.

Second, when Black companies sell to Whites, those companies hired practices, which once skewing Black, tend to then skew White. Naturally, this impacts Black employment and overall income. As

it is, Black average income between 1997 and 1999 sits at \$26,600, significantly less than that of Whites.

Third, there is a sensitivity and balance, particularly by Black professionals who manage Black media, toward the communities and the audiences they target. When African Americans lose control of editorial and visual content, the product or service is likely to slide into a conveyor belt-pattern of producing news and images-damaging the product's uniqueness and balance.

Fourth, the lack of Black controlled news, entertainment and print and television sources places additional pressure on the few that exist to cover more social, economic and political bases. When Blacks lose

one, there is a disproportionately negative impact on the community. It's almost as if the Japanese bought ABC, CBS and NBC. This deal really isn't about the destiny of Black business; it's about money.

Right now, African Americans make up 13 percent of the population, but only 1 percent of advertising dollars is spent to woo that market. Advertisers paid lower rates on BET than to the network's white-owned counter-parts, which hurt BET's bottom line. Viacom plans to expand the network's reach and increase BET's ad revenue.

African Americans might look to what we may gain instead of what we've lost. The good news is that Black businesses are on the rise. Between 1987 and 1996, the number

of Black owned companies rose from 424,000 to over 620,000 - a 46 percent increase. That means there are enough new businesses started since BET came on the scene in 1980 that hopefully a few will rise to replace what we may be losing at the Washington-based entertainment company.

In May, Johnson announced plans to form DC Air by buying the Washington operations of US Airways. If he pulls this off, he would make history again. With it, maybe Johnson will aid in creating opportunities for African American pilots and airline personnel. It could even ultimately lead to more Blacks in air and space programs.

Now that would be Black star power.

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Hackensack Branch
242 State Street
Hackensack, NJ 07601
(201) 342-7744

Paterson Branch
21-2 Mill Street
Paterson, NJ 07651
(973) 279-8700

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302 Nassau Street
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Start new Thanksgiving traditions that last a lifetime

Many family traditions have been around so long, no one knows why or how they began!

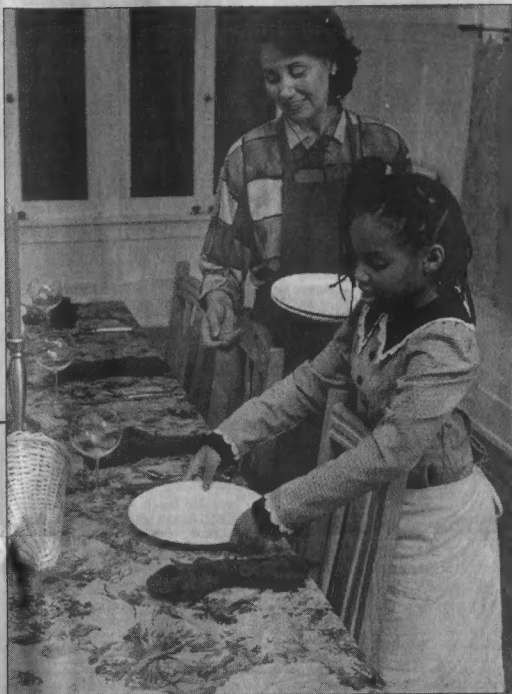
But a new holiday activity can help get your family excited for the celebration and create deeper meaning for your family — and you may start a tradition that lasts for generations. Cynthia MacGregor, author of "Fun Family Traditions" (Meadowbrook Press), offers the following suggestions for simple, new holiday traditions:

- Create a special Thanksgiving tablecloth. Use a white or light-colored sheet and have family members write or draw on it with permanent fine-point markers. Ask them to depict who or what they're thankful

for, as well as special holiday memories.

- If you don't have an extended family to celebrate with, consider expressing thankfulness for your good fortune by helping others. Volunteer your time and energy for an organization serving a special Thanksgiving meal, such as the Salvation Army, a church or temple, a school or restaurant. Contact your local volunteer service to see who needs help in your community.

- Take some time from the eating and the football games to remind each other what you're thankful for. You can do this by paging through family albums and telling stories. Give everyone a chance to others in the family for individual acts of kindness and encouragement. — (FeatureSource)



Five fabulous ways to top your holiday table

Entertaining friends and family can put anyone in a stressful mood, especially around the holidays. Oftentimes, the importance of a nicely set table is a forgotten factor in the evening's agenda. But setting a lively table does more than supply your guests with a place to eat. It sets the mood and develops the atmosphere of the gathering, as well as giving your guests an added topic of conversation throughout dinner.

The following five tips that will help you create a warm, inviting environment for any special occasion.

Building a Table from the Bottom Up

Preparing your table for the decor to come means utilizing a tablecloth or place mats as a base for other items. If you have an especially beautiful table, you may want to consider using place mats, but be sure they are heat proof. If your table surface needs to be protected or is already damaged, a tablecloth is your best option. The cloth should be big enough to drape six inches over each side of the table. Some tablecloths require a heatproof protective mat laid underneath to prevent spills from penetrating through to the table surface.

Divine Dishware

Nothing looks more impressive on a table than gleaming crystal, china

and silverware. Setting these provisions several days early cuts down on last-minute stress and offers you a chance to thoroughly clean and polish your dishware.

Proper Table-setting

Now that your dishware is sparkling, placing it on the table properly is imperative. Even the most experienced hosts can use a refresher course.

Forks are placed to the left of the plate and spoons and knives on the right, with the knife blade placed toward the plate. If there are additional utensils, they should be placed in the order in which they will be used. Side plates always go to the left of the place setting.

Water goblets should be placed at the tip of the main-course knife. If there is more than one glass, arrange them in the order in which they'll be used, outermost first.

If you are using napkins with a fancy fold, they go on top of the main plate. Otherwise, they can be placed on the side plate or to one side of the glasses.

Centralize your Setting

Now that the necessities of your table are set, it's time to get creative with an attractive and alluring centerpiece. For a year-round centerpiece,

flowers are always appealing. Using flowers with similar hues will make the arrangement more cohesive.

For a seasonal centerpiece, put tables in the autumn spirit by using a hollowed-out pumpkin for your floral display, instead of a vase. By placing garland, pinecones and cranberries around the base of a vase, you can achieve a festive

winter appearance. When deciding on a centerpiece, be sure to keep it small if your table space is limited, and be sure to leave room for serving platters and condiments.

Give Your Table a Glow

Candles are an easy way to give your table a calm and approachable appeal. To create the best lighting, use both low votive candles and high taper candles. These heights combine to create an even glow that will illuminate your guests and your food in the most flattering light. A collection of candles can also be used for a serene center-

piece, and lining votive candles down the center will light your entire table aglow. When applying candles to your table setting, avoid using scented candles that might interfere with the food's aroma and taste. Also, be sure that any centerpiece you choose does not make it impossible for guests to see or speak with one another.

Odds and Ends Equal a Successful Gathering

Easy additions are often the ones that are noticed the most. Scattering leaves or festive confetti across the table adds even more sparkle to the

occasion. One last but important tip is to use place cards on your table if you're entertaining friends who may be unfamiliar with each other. These can alleviate awkward moments when guests seat themselves and ward off potential problems. Simply fold an unlabeled index card in half and apply the name in calligraphy.

Even though you don't always have time to pay attention to these minor details, it's a safe bet your guests will. So impress your partygoers with these easy yet effective tips for a tabletop that will top the entertaining charts. — (ARA)

Make Your Thanksgiving an unforgettable Party

(FeatureSource) — Thanksgiving is a holiday that is steeped in tradition, but that doesn't mean it can't be fun! Children will especially enjoy a holiday that has a party-like atmosphere. Patty Sachs, author of "Pick A Party" (Meadowbrook Press), offers the following ideas to make your Thanksgiving celebration an exciting family event:

- Create Thanksgiving-themed costumes, such as pilgrims, Indians, animals or food. Even simple, hand-decorated plastic or cloth bibs can add a festive touch.

- Make the feast kid-sized by seating children around a child-sized picnic table or a tablecloth on the floor for a real picnic. Pillows around a coffee table can give a Japanese flavor to the meal.

- You don't have to consume huge amounts to enjoy the food of the day. Tiny loaves of bread, individual pies, mini-moles of Jell-o or pudding, and potatoes or turkey cut into cube-cutter shapes help kids and adults pace themselves during the feast.

- Personalized tablecloths, placemats and paperware

make each guest feel special and important.

- If your extended family draws names for holiday gifts, make this activity part of your Thanksgiving celebration. Decide on a theme for the gifts, such as "handmade," "artwork," "readable," "travel," or "starts with the first letter of the recipient's first name." Set the budget and allow everyone to pick a name.

- The host of the party can send a unique invitation by having a family group photo enlarged and made into a jigsaw puzzle. Send one or two pieces to each family member, with instructions to bring the piece to the party. Put the puzzle together on a large piece of poster board, and glue it if you want.

- Make a video featuring guests arriving, short interviews with each guest, perhaps photos and a voice-over about absent family members. View the video during dessert and make copies as holiday gifts.



Heartbeat Calendar

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

BELLEVILLE — The Clara Maass Auxiliary will hold its annual Holiday Tree Lighting at 4:30 p.m. on the front lawn of the Clara Maass Medical Center. The Holiday Tree is decorated through donations made to the Clara Maass Auxiliary.

Donations are \$5 per person for a white light, \$25 per person or family for a colored light, \$125 for a snowflake, and \$500 for a tree top ornament. Proceeds are earmarked for the Radiation Oncology Construction & Renovation program.

ON GOING

PLAINFIELD — Muhlenberg Regional Auxiliary Medical Center is seeking out former patients of Garret Keating M.D. to pay tribute at gala on Dec. 1. For more information call (732) 632-1530.

Send your Heartbeat

calendar events to:
City News Heartbeat,
111 Mulberry St., 7TH-C,
Newark, NJ 07102.
Fax to: 973-642-5444
All events should be
mailed at least 3 weeks
prior to event.

Gene that stores fat may trigger obesity also

By Daniel O. Hanley
AP Medical Editor

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A thrifty gene that helped cavemen survive food shortages appears to be a common underlying trigger of both obesity and diabetes, researchers reported Monday.

German researchers said the gene apparently prompts the body to store up fat for later.

They said the gene could be an important explanation of an inherited tendency to gain weight, especially among black people. Their work shows that about 90 percent of blacks, 50 percent of Asians and 30 percent of whites carry at least one copy of this gene.

"This gene was advantageous in times of food scarcity," said Dr. Achim Gotohshin. "But in times of driving and couch potato-ing, it can cause obesity."

The links between genes, living habits and health are of increasing interest to researchers, and this association appears to be especially complex in the way people gain weight. Experts believe that perhaps 30 or 40 genes can increase the tendency to obesity. But these genes operate in concert with each other as well as with people's exercise and dietary habits.

"This is a hint of where medicine is going — gene and environment interactions," said Dr. Robert H. Eckel of the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center.

He said doctors may someday routinely look for genes that increase the risk of obesity, and drugs may be developed to target specific genetic profiles.

Still, he said, people's eating and exercise habits are probably much more important than their genes in determining whether they are overweight.

In fact, the German researchers found that exercise can counteract the bad effects of the gene studied. People who exercise just two hours a week appear to escape the gene's tendency to add weight.

Potassium may play role in reducing heart disease

FLORIDA — For African Americans suffering from high blood pressure, help is "nesting" in from an unexpected source: Tropicana Pure Premium orange juice.

Tropicana announced that has successfully completed the nutrition process with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to carry a new health claim: "Diets containing foods that are good sources of potassium and low in sodium may reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke."

The prevalence of high blood pressure or hypertension among African Americans in the United States is among the highest in the world. About 30 percent of all deaths among African-American men and 20 percent of all deaths among African-American women may be attributed to high blood pressure.

Those who do know about the dangers of high blood pressure and the dietary means of controlling it usually think of cutting out salt or sodium increasing intake of foods rich in potassium has also proven to be an effective strategy.

"Nutritionists and physicians have known for some time that potassium is a key player in blood pressure regulation and stroke prevention, but this message has not reached our patients," said Barbara Dixon, L.D.N., R.D., health educator and nutritionist with Dixon Medical and Nutrition Clinic in Baton Rouge, La.

This is an important message not just for African-Americans but everyone who suffers from high blood pressure," commented Dixon. "A modest reduction in blood pressure—a general average of just three points—could potentially prevent more than 15,000 deaths per year."

Industry Leader

"This claim represents the significant resources Tropicana is putting behind nutritional research that demonstrates the benefits of foods and beverages like orange juice, that are naturally functional," says Tropicana nutrition scientist Carla McGill, Ph.D., RD, who worked with the FDA to petition for the claim. With the new health claim, Tropicana Pure Premium orange juice becomes the first food or beverage to highlight its role in reducing two cardiovascular disease risks—high blood pressure and stroke. The only other foods that can claim to lower the risk of high blood pressure are those that are low in sodium.

For more information about the new claim, go to www.tropicanahealthnews.com.

Union County makes child car safety a top priority



Union County Freeholder Vice Chairman Alexander Mirabella addresses "precious cargo" at Babies R Us. Bessie Worthey, age three of North Plainfield and her mother Deanna came to the Union location for the inspection and installation of child safety seats by the Union County Police.

About 160 child safety seats were inspected and/or installed over a two-day period recently.

UNION — Where can you get a service that makes you feel safer with your child in a car? For parents of children between the ages of newborn and eight years old you can say "Union County, New Jersey." Why Union County? It's simple.

The problem — child safety seats look simple enough to select and install. Most adults believe the seats they choose look like the right one for their child and their vehicle and were correctly installed. The truth is that four out of five seats are used incorrectly.

The solution — The Union County Police have a child car seat safety program. It began in May 1999. The program has inspections twice a week at the County Police Headquarters in Westfield (with an average of 100 inspections each week). Additionally, about 40 to 60 inspections are done weekly with the mobile inspection unit at numerous locations from schools and childcare facilities to health and safety fairs, hospitals and businesses.

Such a business was Babies R Us on Route 22 in Union. Four child passenger safety technicians spent 12 hours over two days in September to see that a total of about 160 child safety seats were correctly installed.

Vice Chairman Mirabella and County Clerk Joanne Rappaport and myself went to Babies R Us to see

the County Police in action," observed Freeholder Deborah Scanlon. "Among the work that they did that day was cut wacky noodles, tape them together with duct tape, wrap them in rubber shelf liner and place them under the seat to assure that the safety seat was at the proper 45 degree angle for the rear facing infants' seats. Who would have thought of doing that?"

In addition to County Police inspecting and installing the safety seats, they try to show parents and other loved ones how to do it. This is vital. If the seat cannot be removed for any reason, the seat can be reinstalled immediately, assuring that the child will continue riding safely.

"I am proud of the men and women of the Car Seat Safety Inspection Program," said Freeholder Chairman Daniel Sullivan. "If a young child is a passenger in your car regularly, have the County Police inspect or install their safety seat. It may be about 30 of the most important minutes that you ever invest in safeguarding a child. Let us add them to the total of children's lives saved."

The inspection program is conducted every Wednesday and Thursday from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Information about the program may be obtained by calling the Union County Police Department at (908) 654-5830.

Clara Maass Medical opens new emergency department



Clara Maass Medical Center's new Emergency Department includes state-of-the-art technology and enhanced patient and family amenities. Enjoying the ribbon-cutting festivities were (third from right) Ronald J. Del Mauro, president and CEO of the Saint Barnabas Health Care System, Thomas A. Biga, executive director of Clara Maass (right), and the Emergency Department staff at Clara Maass.

BELLEVILLE — Clara Maass Medical Center recently opened a new Emergency Department after completing the first phase of an \$8 million Emergency Department Construction and Renovation project.

The new facility incorporates state-of-the-art technology with enhanced patient/family amenities. The new 13,000 square-foot facility includes a dedicated assessment area designed to exclusively treat and monitor patients experiencing symptoms of a cardiac episode, two radiology rooms, a 24-hour stat laboratory for fast lab work, and a transfusion services area.

"We are excited to celebrate the opening of our state-of-the-art Emergency Department. Building this new facility and ensuring the ability to offer top-notch emergency care exemplifies the commitment that Clara Maass and the Saint Barnabas Health Care System have made to our patients and the community," said Thomas A. Biga, executive director of Clara Maass.

Last year the Clara Maass Emergency Department treated more than 33,000 patients, a 16 percent increase over the previous year. The new department will nearly double the space the department currently occupies and allow easier access to emergency care for area residents.

The spacious new department will house 24 beds equipped with telemetry units for heart monitoring. Telephones and televisions will be located at each bed in an examination room and music will be continuously played throughout the department.

Windows in many of the exam rooms will pro-

vide a cheerful touch to the entire treatment area. Services in the new facility will be enhanced by the convenience and comfort of complimentary refreshments for waiting friends and family members, cordless telephones and bilingual patient representatives.

The addition of wireless registration will enable patients to be seen by medical personnel immediately while personal information is documented via a mobile computer.

The new facility will be augmented with a dedicated pediatric emergency department and enhanced waiting rooms for family members when the next phase of the Emergency Department project is completed in early 2001.

A new Same Day Surgery facility which will include a new Operating Room, Endoscopy Department and renovated waiting areas and nursing stations is expected to be completed by early 2001.

In the past several years, Clara Maass' Emergency Department has undertaken a number of initiatives aimed at increasing patient satisfaction, which led to high scores in patient satisfaction surveys.

"The dedication of our Emergency Department medical staff and all of our ER professionals is the key to the quality that we strive to achieve on a daily basis," said Biga. "This new facility will give us the opportunity to help realize the goals that we set for ourselves in the delivery of emergency care here at Clara Maass."

For more information about Clara Maass or to receive a complete directory of services, please call 1-800-CLARA MAASS or visit the World Wide Web at www.saintbarnabas.com.

Few options for nearly one million seniors to be dropped from HMOs by year-end

PALEM BEACH GARDENS.

Fla. — By year-end 2000, nearly 914,000 seniors on Medicare will be dropped from their HMOs, on top of the 700,000 that were dropped in 1998 and 1999. But unlike the experience of previous years, when most seniors could still find alternative HMOs that might accept them, next year they will have few remaining options, according to a study by Weiss Ratings, Inc.

Among the 237 HMOs reviewed by Weiss that opened their doors to Medicare beneficiaries in recent years, 147 will have fully or partially abandoned the business by Dec. 31. This leaves only 90 HMOs (17 percent of the HMOs rated) that are continuing to maintain their current Medicare business, for now.

Among these remaining 90 HMOs, 37 are losing money. They lost a total of \$645 million in 1999.

plus another \$82 million in the first quarter of 2000. At the same time, 34 have earned a Weiss Safety Rating of D+ ("weak") or lower. Only 22 have earned a rating of B ("good") or better.

Seniors who have been dropped from their HMO should not rejoin another," commented Martin D. Weiss, Ph.D., chairman of Weiss Ratings, Inc.

In 1998 and 1999, Weiss Ratings also advised consumers to avoid rejoining HMOs if possible because of continuing losses that were expected to cause HMOs to drop many more Medicare patients in future years. But at that time, a Medicare HMO was considered to at least be a viable choice for those who could not afford more expensive alternatives, today, it is not.

Weiss warns that most seniors will be forced into one of three dif-

cult alternatives: (1) sub-standard health care under some form of welfare, (2) burdensome spending out of pocket for bills that Medicare fails to cover, or (3) Medicare supplement insurance (Medigap) which can often be overpriced.

"However, with some effort and the proper information, seniors can still hope to find reasonably priced health coverage," Weiss said.

Whether they have been dropped from an HMO or not, Weiss Ratings recommends that seniors seriously consider returning to Medicare while buying a good Medigap policy. However, consumers should buy only those benefits they truly need and shop around carefully to avoid overpricing, which is still common in the industry.

For more information about the Weiss guide call 1-800-289-9222.

Do you know what your blood pressure is?

1 out of every 3 African Americans has high blood pressure*

Odds are that you or someone in your family may have high blood pressure and not know it. High blood pressure increases your chance of getting heart or kidney disease, or of having a stroke. And while some people with high blood pressure complain of occasional headaches and nose bleeds, many experience no symptoms.

You may be eligible to participate in a medical research study of an innovative blood pressure monitoring device. If you have high blood pressure, or if you have a family history of high blood pressure, you may be selected to participate in a study that will provide you with a state-of-the-art medical device and a trained medical professional to monitor your blood pressure. Participants will be under a doctor's supervision throughout the study.



To learn more about this study, please call toll free:

1-877 78HEART
(1 877 784 3278)

Know your blood pressure. It's important to your health.

*Source: American Heart Association

Antz Wednesday

B4

November 22 - November 28, 2000

ENTERTAINMENT BLURBS

Will Smith losses \$60,000 gambling

LOS ANGELES (AP) —

While in Las Vegas preparing for "The Legend of Bagger Vance" actor mastered the greens — but lost a lot of green, too.



Smith

In the December-January issue of Maximum Golf, golf coach Ron Del Barrio said he and Smith spent a week in Las Vegas, hitting both the links and the gaming tables. While the trip did good things for Smith's swing, the tables were another story, Del Barrio said.

After Smith lost \$60,000 in about 20 minutes, Del Barrio said Smith vowed it would never happen again.

"Ron," he said, "I guarantee you this — you will never see me gamble again."

For the rest of that trip and during several subsequent visits to the gambling Mecca, Smith apparently held to his word.

Del Barrio said he asked Smith how he resisted temptation. Smith's response: "That's how I am, I learn a lesson and I don't forget it."

Sharmell Sullivan is a lethal combination of brains, beauty & brawn

Known to millions of viewers as Paisley, the manager/valet to the World Champion Wrestling's (WCW) character Kwee-Wee, and former manager/valet for the Artist Formerly Known As Prince, Sharmell Sullivan is a book worm, class valedictorian or mathematician. But believe it or not, she is all these things and more. A lethal combination of brains, beauty and brawn, Sullivan is currently captivating a legion of fans internationally with her tantalizing theatrics inside the wrestling ring. She is seen weekly on TNT's wrestling show "Nitro" and TBS's "Thunder."

A former beauty queen, (she holds the titles of Miss Black America, Miss Freshman of Morehouse College, Miss Indiana Black Expo, Miss Ohio Black Expo and Miss Fulton County) Sullivan is no stranger to competition or winning for that matter. Sullivan first began competing at the age of five, traveling the country for swim meets. An accomplished dancer and gymnast, her skills were so impressive early on that she was asked to train for the Olympic team before she was ten.

With a focus on academics, however, Sullivan passed on the offer and opted to stay in school. The captain of her cheerleading and pom-pom team and a majorette, Sullivan juggled performance while remaining a steadfast bookworm. She later graduated valedictorian of her high

school class and was selected as one of 50 students to travel abroad with the Extraordinary Students of America tour. A self-described late bloomer, however, Sullivan recalls humorously that she missed her senior prom because she didn't have a date.

After high school, Sullivan relocated to Atlanta, GA, attending the prestigious Spelman College. It is during this period that she accumulated her pageant titles while becoming a General Motors Scholar securing a degree in mathematics.

With the entertainment world calling her, Sullivan embarked upon a professional dance career after graduation, touring with Keith Sweat, Blackstreet, 112 and the Godfather of Soul, Mr. James Brown for 3 1/2 years.

"Because of the James Brown tour, I've been to every continent save Antarctica. The experience has prepared me well for my busy travel schedule with WCW," said Sullivan.

Sullivan was inspired into the world of wrestling after auditioning as a Nitro Girl for WCW. She appeared as Nitro Girl Storm in December of 1998 and has been taking the audiences by storm ever since. With her raging dance moves, brilliant smile, and keen athletic ability, it was only a matter of time before the WCW's creative team advanced her to the role of her new character, Paisley. A pretty in pink vixen, Paisley has begun to evolve.

Combining the powers of her mind and body, the dancer-turned valet has begun to wrestle live, and would not turn down the opportunity to wrestle full-time if given the chance. "I think with my gymnastics background, my flexibility and my intensity, I could be an awesome opponent," declares Sullivan.

Sharmell Sullivan is calling WCW home for now, but with her background, the big screen cannot be far behind. More importantly, however, it is her vision for young people Bridging education through multi-cultural diversity has always been her foremost platform.

Sullivan is a shining example of being able to accomplish your dreams, whatever they may be.

"With me, it was particularly difficult because I've always wanted to be an entertainer. As an intelligent person, I've always had people tell me that entertaining was a waste of



my time. However, I never let go of my dream. No one can tell you what's going to make you happy. If you have a dream, see it through to fruition," she advises.

Fusing mind, body and power, Sharmell Sullivan is definitely a dream come true.

New music

OutKast's | Stankonia



Antistace Records dropped one of hip-hop's most anticipated albums of the year, "Stankonia" by the multi-platinum group, OutKast.

The 1998 rap Grammy-nominated duo is back to put the Stank on you. The album, features production by OutKast, Organized Noize (Goodie Mob, TLC) and Earthtone III (Mystikal, Erykah Badu) will once again showcase the group's talents — not only as lyricists, but as influential music pioneers.

The kinetic, chest-thumping premiere single "B.O.B." (Bombs Over Baghdad) stems from the group being overseas in Europe and watching the same disturbing news reports about a war. Certain forces were taking aim at "so called" enemies, but were instead bombing milk factories and innocent bystanders — blowing up everything but the significant targets.

In response, OutKast wanted to express how they felt about individuals or groups who claim to be taking care of business when in fact they're doing the opposite — don't say you're coming with the big guns when you know you're not. "B.O.B." with its fast paced, beat-heavy thumps, reflects the chaos that was going on inside and outside their lives.

The second single, "Ms. Jackson," pays homage to all the single baby mothers out there raising the children, while apologizing to all the mothers who've been hurt by the baby fathers. The song, produced by OutKast, is sure to be the ghetto anthem of the year.

"Stankonia" features guest appearances by Erykah Badu, rapper Gangsta Boo and Cipp of Goodie Mob. This one is a hip-hop classic.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

NEWARK - "Jazzin' Wednesday's" at Maize's Restaurant from 6-10 p.m. For further information call 973-639-1200.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24

MORRISTOWN - Ken Galpeau and WB Reid Folk Project's strong performances. For further information call 973-335-9489.

BROOKLYN - Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, a musical workout at 8 p.m. For further information call 212-496-7070.

MANHATTAN - Spirit Move Youth Celebration from 8p.m.-11:00 p.m. For further information call Riverside Church at 212-843-9231, and ask for Gladwyn Lopez.

NEWARK - The Canadian Brass With The New York Brass. For further information call 973-297-5834.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25

PARAMUS - You're invited to the spectacular Opening Night of the American Stage Company production of Men the musical comedy. For further information call 201-692-7744.

NEW YORK - Inside The Making Of Guys And Dolls. For further information call 212-534-1672 ext 257.

MORRISTOWN - Unearth Treasures at The Morris Museum's Rock and Minera Weekend. For further information call 973-538-0454 ext 254.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 26

NEWARK - Andre' Watts, piano appearing at NJPAC. For further information call 973-297-5834.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

NEW YORK CITY - Symphony Space Empires of Passion The Cinema of Obsession. At 7 p.m. For further information call 718-435-4744.

NEW YORK CITY - Symphony Space presents Last Tango in Paris (1972). For further information call 718-435-4744.

NEWARK - Whitney Houston to join a cast of stars to pay tribute to Paul Robeson. Voice of the Millennium. For further information call 973-648-3828.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

NEWARK - Maize Restaurant offers "Jazzin' Wednesday's" at 8 p.m. For further information call 973-639-1200.

NEWARK - Curator's Tour Resource/Fuel New Jersey (12:15-1:00 p.m.). For further information call 973-596-8500.

NEW BRUNSWICK - Acclaimed Vocalist K.D. Lang To Perform At State Theatre. For further information 732-246-7469.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30

NEWARK - Rutgers-NJIT Theatre Arts Program presents Black Elk Speaks at 7 p.m. For further information call 201-596-3455/3458.

NEW YORK - Jim Brickman at The Westbury Music Fair at 8 p.m. For further information call 212-307-7171.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

CALDWELL - Caldwell Christmas Concert at 8 p.m. For further information call 973-618-3209.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

NEW YORK - The City of New York's Museum presents

Lectures, Then And Now. For further information call 212-534-1672 ext 257.

MORRISTOWN - Exhibition, A Century American Dolls on View from 1-3 p.m. For more information call 6973-538-0454.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

MORRISTOWN - International Holiday Festival. For more information call 973-538-0454.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6

NEWARK - Classical Music events at NJPAC and other Venues. Emanuel Ax and Yo-Yo Ma @ 7:30 p.m. For further information call NJPAC.

NEW YORK - Boston Symphony Orchestra @ 8 p.m. Carnegie Hall with Krystian Zimerman, piano. For further information call NJPAC.

NEWARK - The Frances E.W. Literary Society of The Newark Public Library presents Casting The First Stone by Kimberla Lawson Roby. For further information call The Newark Public Library.

NEWARK - Emanuel AX, piano YO-YO MA, cello. For further information call 973-297-5834.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

MORRISTOWN - Open Art Workshop Natural Mystic 4-7 p.m. For further information call 973-538-0454.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

NEWARK - Beethoven Symphony # 5 @ 8 p.m. For further information call NJPAC.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

MORRISTOWN - A Christmas

Carol at the Morris Museum. For further information call 973-538-0454 x 254.

MORRISTOWN - Bayer Children's Theater Series "A Christmas Carol" Showtime at 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. For further information call 973-538-8069.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 11

NEW YORK - The Armstrong Lecture Series features Pops the Trombone Soloist. For further information call 212-258-9900.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13

NEW YORK - Live from Lincoln Center Presents Jazz at Lincoln Center * Armstrong. For further information call 212-875-5391 at 8:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15

NEW BRUNSWICK - Vienna Choir Boys at the State Theatre. For further information call The State Theatre in New Brunswick.

NEWARK - David Rudder singer/songwriter will appear at NJPAC at 8 p.m. For further information call 973-297-5838.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

NEWARK - Vienna Choir Boys will be appearing at NJPAC. For further information call 973-297-5834.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

NEWARK - Boston Pops Esplanade Orchestra Keith Lockhart, conductor. For further information call 973-297-5834.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20

MANASQUAN - A solid brass holiday at the Algonquin. For further information call 732-528-9221.

For all entertainment events to 973-642-5444

Movie Review

Men of Honor

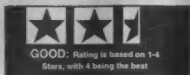
By Kam Williams

Carl Brashear was a military hero of a different sort. He never fought in a war. He never even carried a gun. In fact, his biggest battles were probably waged against his own superiors who told him he couldn't do it. What he wanted to do was to join the Navy's elite corps of deep-sea divers. But Brashear was a black man. And when he enlisted in 1948, the country's armed forces were still segregated, despite an executive order by President Truman to integrate.

Men of Honor, directed by George Tillman, Jr. (Soul Food), chronicles Mr. Brashear's tenacity and indomitable spirit which enabled him to overcome the resistance and adversity between him and his dream. The film stars Oscar-winner Cuba Gooding, Jr. as the undisciplined son of a Kentucky sharecropper who earned equality through his remarkable perseverance alone.

The movie, originally entitled The Diver until it switched in July, was produced by veteran-turned-comedian Billy Cosby. The Cos attracted a superb cast and apparently spared no expense on the lavish, faithfully-recreated production which effectively transports the viewer back to the Cold War Era. Even the military gear of the late Forties and early Fifties, from uniforms to equipment to ships and planes, were meticulously researched to ensure authenticity.

Two-time Oscar-winner Robert DeNiro (for Godfather II and Raging Bull) co-stars as Billy Sunday, the cyni-



cal commanding officer who Brashear must convince. The omnipresent Charlize Theron (Bagger Vance, The Cider House Rules, Reindeer Games, etcetera) appears as Billy's wife Gwen, while Aunjanue Ellis (In Too Deep) plays Jo, Carl's beloved.

The supporting cast is stocked with talent, too, including Tony Award-winner Hal Holbrook (for Mark Twain Tonight), Michael Rapaport (Damon Wayan's boss in Bamboozled), Lonette McKee (He Got Game) and Joshua Leonard (alive) well after his disappearance in The Blair Witch Project).

Regrettably, the screenplay, the first by newcomer Scott Marshall Smith, is too superficial to hold any but the very young in its thrall. But, with an R rating for some very salty sailor language, most adolescents won't get to see it. The problem is that the film rushes headlong from scene to scene, compacting Brashear's fascinating life into a couple of hours.

Before we have a chance to digest and savor one of Carl's accomplishments, he is already outdoing himself with the next. The movie never lets us come up for air to reflect because it is too busy turning Carl Brashear, the man, into Carl Brashear, the superhero.

The comparison of Men of Honor with a pair of other race-themed, period pieces, currently released, is inevitable. This film pales in comparison to Remember the Titans, a true story of the desegregation of a Southern high school starting

Denzel Washington. There, the story was kept small, while the characters were fleshed out and fully-developed to make for a satisfying, moving experience.

However, Men of Honor is far superior to The Legend of Bagger Vance, set in the South in the Thirties. Bagger Vance, rather than tackle the thorny issue of race head-on, retreated to a stereotypical send-up of unchallenged social roles.

Men of Honor, to its credit, details the day-to-day reality of the Jim Crow military: separate bunks, separate jobs, limited opportunities and up forth.

But by setting up Carl Brashear as something of a cardboard superhero, the film fails, really, to get us close to this extraordinary man who must have had a depth of emotion about his ordeal.

Rated R for racial epithets, profanity, violence and romantic clichés.

US Navy's first black diver Memorialized in Men of Honor



Futuristic Sci-Fi Thriller Pits Arnold Schwarzenegger Versus Invasion of Clones

Arnold Schwarzenegger, after a couple of so-so outings, returns to form reminiscent of True Lies with The Sixth Day, a gripping, fast-paced action-adventure set in the not too distant future. Arnold owes a debt of gratitude to 007-director Roger Spottiswoode (Tomorrow Never Dies) who imbues the production with an engaging, James Bond-like intensity.

The movie, with a heavy-handed creation-versus-evolution theme, pits Adam (Arnold) against an evil corporation which is manufacturing an army of drone-like clones. Adam, an ordinary helicopter pilot, gets swept up in planetary

intrigue after an identical stranger assumes his identity and moves in with his wife and daughter. When Adam discovers that scientists have broken the genetic code and are cloning humans, it falls to him to save the world by blowing up their research center.

So long as one ignores or agrees with the not too subtle anti-technology message, The Sixth Day remains a high-octane treat. But, even the title, right out of Genesis, has to do with the Bible, which teaches that creation was completed on the sixth day. Theoretically, when God rested on the seventh day, he

slammed the door on evolution and any Scopes-like inquiry is but damned. So, it is

doesn't take an Einstein to figure out that we've been manipulated to side with Adam, Eve and God against scientists doing the Devil's work.

This special fix-dervent film is visually captivating from start to finish. From helicopters which morph into jets, to sea-thru cloning tanks with womb-like incubation to laser guns which zap appendages off in an instant, we sense a plausible scenario which might be just around the corner.

And because some sort of Foucaultian showdown with science is conceivable, the movie remains tautly compelling.

The Sixth Day features a more than



capable supporting cast, starting with Oscar-winner Robert Duvall (for Tender Mercies) who co-stars as Adam's nemesis, the dastardly Dr. Graham Weir. Michael Rapaport, who's suddenly seems to be in every movie opening lately (Bamboozled), plays a buddy-role similar to that of Tom Arnold's in True Lies.

As the motor-mouthed Hank, Rapaport lends the comic relief needed to offset Schwarzenegger's sober visage. The Sixth Day is undeniably derivative, offering echoes of James Bond. The

Matrix, Night of the Living Dead, and even Arnold's own End of Days, Terminator, Predator, True Lies and Total Recall. Yet the flick is also fresh enough to stand on its own. So when, at one juncture, Adam utters, "I might be back," a slight, but obvious, variation of a trademark Schwarzenegger line, one chuckles nostalgically, but remains immersed in the action.

These humorous asides, sprinkled liberally throughout, is a clue from director Spottiswoode's not to take anything too seriously, even if the morality play is positioned as a God-ordained condemnation of scientific inquiry. Lighten up and curb your dogma.

Rated PG-13 for pyrotechnics, gore, dismemberment, gruesome killings, mild profanity and sexual situations.

Your opinion

Is the new Source's "All access" all that or just a Soul Train want-to-be?



From Left to Right: Miss Jones, Source: All Access' correspondent and Hot-97 FM on-air personality, is joined by super-model Tyson Beckford, center, who fills in for All Access' co-host Treach and Eve, right, Ruff Ryders' sexy first lady, who was a guest on the show.

NEW YORK, NY—The "Source: All Access" hosted by actress LisaRaye (Players Club & The Wood) and multi-talented actor, model and hip-hop artist Treach of Naughty by Nature (First Time Felon), airs its seventh show Saturday, November 18, 2000 nationally. A joint venture between The Source Magazine and The African Heritage Network (AHN), "The Source: All Access" is a weekly one-hour magazine-style television series that focuses on the world of urban entertainment. The show is sponsored by Coca-Cola, with other sponsors including Burger King, AT&T and Virgin Records. "The Source: All Access" airs on NBC-4, Saturdays at 2:00 a.m.

"This show as well as our other show, 'Source Sound Lab' represent programming for today's generation - their voice, point of view and entertainment preferences," says David Mays, The Source Founder and an Executive Producer of the show.

Let ARTZ Wednesday know what you think. Send all letters of 200 words or less to City News, Opinion, 113 Mulberry St., TH-C, Newark, NJ 07102.

Theater
Mississippi Delta meets Newark:
NJ PAC presents amazing play

NEWARK — The New Jersey Performing Arts Center in association with Queens Theatre in the Park and The South Jersey Performing Arts Center present the critically acclaimed drama From the Mississippi Delta, directed by the Tony Award-winning actress Trezana Beverly ("For Colored Girls..."), who is also featured in this production along with Joanna Rhinehart and Kallini Baxter. Performances are through Sunday, Nov. 26 at NJPAC's Victoria Theater. Performance schedule: Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.; Thursday, Nov. 23 at 7:30 p.m.; Friday, Nov. 24 at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 25 at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 26 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45, and may be purchased by telephone at 1-888-GO NJPAC (1-888-466-5722), at the NJPAC Box Office at One Center Street in downtown Newark, or from the NJPAC web-site at

First produced by Woody King's New Federal Theater in 1987, "From the Mississippi Delta has been performed in major cities throughout the United States. It was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1988 (the award went to "Driving Miss Daisy").

From prostitute to professor and playwright, from country child to civil rights activist to feminist, "From the Mississippi Delta," is the story of Dr. Endesha Ida Mae Holland's life. She was brought up in Greenwood, Miss. by a mother who inspired her children to make something of themselves by seizing opportunities she never had. It blends folktales, childhood memories, sassy down-home sociological observations and blues and gospel standards with Holland's unabashed "confessions." The play is written in the dialect Holland heard and spoke growing up, the voices that stayed in her head.

A cast made up of three women plays all the characters. Trezana Beverly, who won the Tony Award for Best Featured Actress in "For Colored Girls Who Consider Suicide when the Rainbow's Nuff," will direct and perform one of the roles in this three-woman tour de force. Ms. Beverly has performed on Broadway and in National Tours of My Sister, My Sister, Death and the King's Horseman and Darker Face of the Earth. She also appeared in Oprah Winfrey's Beloved.

Joining Beverly in this production is Joanna Rhinehart, who starred in last season's Off-Broadway hit "The Trial of an Unshortighted Black Woman Vs. Mammy Louise and Saletrea Mae," and Kallini A. Baxter, who has appeared on New York stages in "And the World Laughs With You," "Saint Lucy's Eyes" and "Clara in Clara's Old Man."



Tony Award-winning actress Trezana Beverly directs "From the Mississippi Delta," currently playing at NJPAC in Newark.

Preparing to get a job the right way

By Allynn Riggs

Steve approached the counter of the restaurant he wanted to work at. "May I have an application form?"

The hostess handed him one and showed him to an empty table where he could fill it before speaking with the manager. Steve felt he was prepared for the interview. He had gotten a "B" in the career training class at school. They had talked about how to dress, how to write a resume. He was still unsure of how a resume would look with no previous job experience on it though, or how to behave during an interview. Now he was putting that class work to action by attempting to get his first real job.

The application was simple enough, just the front and back of one sheet of paper. He confidently filled out his current address and phone number. The second section asked for any previous addresses in the last 10 years. Steve could remember moving twice since he was in school but had no idea of what the addresses had been. He'd been in Louisville for three years. He hadn't been told in the career class that his previous addresses would be part of any application. He listed just the towns and states.

Steve moved on to fill in the education section by listing his middle school and high school but realized he didn't know the address or the official phone number of either. One thing the class had not covered.

Steve looked at the hostess. She gave him an encouraging smile. He got up and asked, "Do you have a phone book I could borrow?"

"Sure." She answered handing him the book from under the counter.

After several minutes of searching Steve found the correct phone numbers. The next section asked about his criminal record. That was easy. He had never even been to a police station. Steve wondered what to do if he did

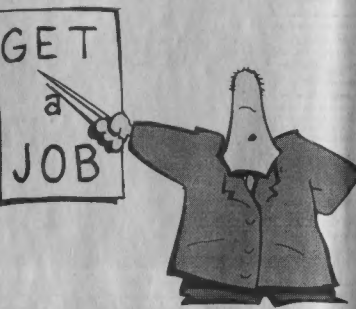
have a criminal record or what was considered a criminal record. The next came the Reference section requesting a list of references not related to him. Steve had no idea of who to write down plus he didn't know any of their addresses if he had. This was another thing that the class at school did not cover.

Steve was getting a bit frustrated, then decided to write the lady next door for whom he mowed the lawn the last month, at least Steve knew the address. But he couldn't remember the phone number. He dove into the phone

book again. There was no Julie Cramer listed. Steve realized that he didn't know Mr. Cramer's first name as well as the fact they had moved in only two months ago and wouldn't be in the phone book anyway. Besides, what if the manager called the Cramer's?

Steve had only known them for two months and only mowed the lawn four times, what kind of a reference would that be?

Steve decided he really wasn't prepared to get a job because he couldn't even fill out the application form completely. As he got up to leave, the manager approached him. Steve decided to try out the interview portion before he left, at least he could say he tried.



The manager looked over the application. "Nice to meet you, Steve. Before we get too far along, how old are you?"

"Almost fifteen, sir," Steve answered.

The manager shook his head. "I can't hire anyone under the age of sixteen and the state has a law about not allowing middle or high school students to work past 3 p.m. on school nights and not past 10 p.m. on weekends unless they are over 18-years-old. The shifts I need people for are in the evenings until 11 p.m. during the week and until midnight on the weekends. I'm sorry, Steve but I can't hire you at this time. You

from his current classes (he used the school phone number unless they specifically okayed using their home numbers); his Boy Scout leaders; the choir director at church; and his basketball and soccer coaches. He also made sure he had their permission to put them down as references. Now he had plenty of references to choose from.

4. He created his own business card.

5. He worked on a resume. He decided to list as previous work experience his lawn mowing and babysitting business. He also listed his CPR training, being the team captain of both the basketball and soccer teams for two years and was the president of the Spanish Club at school.

Steve also looked into the labor laws of his state. He found out there were regulations on how old a person could be to run machinery of any kind including a cash register, serve alcohol, and how many hours per week they could work and how late. All of this narrowed his job options but he was sure the next time he filled out an application he would be able to fill it in completely and confidently.

Steve presented his findings to the careers class instructor and assisted her in the restructuring of the class to include application forms and doing research before trying for a job.

All Steve's work paid off. After receiving his resume, business card and short letter of introduction in the mail. They needed help three afternoons a week in a local office. Steve is now answering the phone for them. It didn't pay big bucks but it is his first "real" job and he is learning how a business runs. He now has previous work experience to add to his resume.

Come through loud and clear with your holiday gift

(ARA)—One of the most popular holiday gifts during the last decade has been compact discs: an inexpensive way to give the gift of music. But the evolution of music technology has added a new dimension in high-quality audio enjoyment, and one that will leave a resounding joy in the ears of kids and adults alike.

This music technology, portable audio players, provide a convenient, pocket-sized way to listen to an MP3 collection of their choice and it gives carriers a perfect way to personalize their system according to their own musical tastes.

An array of in-dash receivers are equipped with MP3 capabilities, so users can listen to their favorite tunes not only when walking or exercising, but also while driving. It's part of what Crutchfield Corporation, the leading Internet and catalog retailer of consumer electronics, calls part of "wired education."

MP3 is really changing the way people listen to music. It's especially popular among young people because it presents so many options for collecting and storing recordings," said Dan Hodgson, Senior Vice President of Merchandising at Crutchfield Corporation.

Crutchfield offers Sony products through its audio/video catalog and its Web site at www.crutchfield.com.

MP3 is a computer format that compresses the tens of megabytes of CD-quality audio files into just a few megabytes. A variety of sites on the Internet let users select songs, making great-sounding digital audio easily downloadable for today's computer-savvy population.

The growth in the field has been explosive in the last year. Datatrust, a market research firm, estimates worldwide shipments of

portable music devices this year are expected to top 155 million.

In addition to MP3 audio files, many of the products that Crutchfield offers include software that facilitate conversion of CD tracks to files that can be stored on portable discs. The Sony Memory Stick Walkman, for instance, can cram 120 minutes of music on a device that's smaller than a stick of gum.

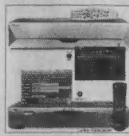
Among the products available from Crutchfield:

The Sony NW-MS7 (\$399.95) is Sony's "Memory Stick Walkman." It'll store two hours of music on a patented Memory Stick. Music from your computer (MP3 files, for example) can be transferred to the NW-MS7 via your computer's USB port.

The Sony NW-E3 Network Walkman (\$329.95) is an incredible bite-sized music machine that is little more than 3 inches wide by 1 inch high. It also stores 120 minutes of music downloaded at high speeds from your computer.

On the go? The Kenwood eXcelon Z19 (\$649.95) decodes and plays CD-Rs full of compressed MP3 files. Kenwood's best tuner rounds out the package. The Aiwa CDC-MP3 (\$299.95) also is a CD car receiver that plays MP3 files that are transferred to a CD-R disc.

Rockford Fosgate's RFKMP3.8 (\$249.95) is an MP3 changer for your vehicle that works with Rockford Fosgate RFX receivers. It holds 8 individual multimedia cards (one is included) to store hours of music, and hundreds of MP3 files. Crutchfield offers a discount when the RFKMP3.8 and a compatible receiver are purchased together.



Holidays can teach kids money management

TRENTON — The holidays are a great time to teach your children about savings, budgeting, shopping and other money management skills, according to Scott Dingwall, director of Consumer Credit Counseling Service (CCCS) of Central New Jersey, a division of Family Guidance Center.

"Many parents will be doing lots of gift shopping with their children and have many opportunities to show them the importance of planned purchases," Dingwall said. "During a simple shopping trip, you can show children the importance of shopping early and sticking to a spending plan," Dingwall said.

Here are seven suggestions from CCCS that parents can use to teach holiday money lessons to their young Kris Kringles.

1. Make a list. Santa's no fool. He has a naughty and nice list. But he also has a gift list, and he sticks to it. Holiday shopping is easier and less expensive with a shopping list.

2. Develop a spending plan. Children who know they are limited to \$5 per gift, aren't likely to spend too much time in the electronics section of a toy store. Sit down with your children and determine how much they can spend on gifts for others. This provides boundaries and realism in expectations. Be sure to set up an overall budget for all those on the

gift list.

3. Start a savings plan. With a gift list and a spending plan, it's time for your children to start saving.



ing up for those gifts. Give them opportunities to earn extra money for both the holiday season and year round.

4. Shop with your children. Allow your children to pick out their own gifts and use your shopping trips as an opportunity to show your children how to compare prices and quality.

5. Stop shopping when the

money is gone. Teach children to stick to their spending plan. Learning how to spend only what you have is a valuable tool for later in life.

6. Teach children that the thought counts. Encourage children to make handmade gifts for teachers, friends and classmates. Children should not feel pressured into buying expensive gifts. There are lots of items that children can make at a little cost.

7. Emphasize the importance of giving. The holidays are about giving and reaching out to others. Volunteering is also a great way to stress the importance of giving. Plan to donate your time as a family to a local food bank or other charity.

Follow these tips and your children will have a joyous holiday season. And more importantly, they will learn a few lasting financial lessons in the process.

CCCS is a non-profit community service organization that offers debt and credit counseling and education.

For information on getting out of debt call (609) 585-8220, (888) 379-0604 or visit www.cccscentralnj.com.

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Business Calendar

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY,
NOVEMBER 28 & 29

SADDLE BROOK — A two-day business valuation seminar sponsored by the Geneva Companies will take place at the Saddle Brook Marriott from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. the first day and from 8:30 to 3 p.m. the second. Learn when's the best time to sell a business. For more information call 1-800-243-6382.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30
NEWARK — The Friends of City Bookers cordially invite you to join them for a Donor Reception, at 6 p.m. For further information call 973-621-0065.

PASSAIC — The STEPS Group will sponsor a entrepreneurial seminar and workshop series at Club Estelito Domintrino, 263 Passaic St. The first session takes place from 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and is \$20. For more information call Samuel Bastrista at (973) 693-4065.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1

LONG BRANCH — The Supplier Diversity Development Council will have its conference at Ocean Plaza Conference Resort. For more information and reservations fax (973) 882-5399 or e-mail at lddmc@worldnet.att.net

NEWARK — NJIT Procurement Center is holding free workshops for small businesses. For more information call 973-596-3105.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER (THROUGH DEC. 5)

EAST BRUNSWICK — The Mercer County Business Association presents a three-day seminar entitled "Navigating the Changes, Challenges and Choices of the Small Business," at the East Brunswick Hilton. For more information call (909) 538-9200.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 4

NEW BRUNSWICK — First Annual Women Of Achievement Awards Gala Lifetime Achievement Award. Dinner is at 6 p.m. For further information call the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

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'Virtually Home' theme sweeps small business awards

NEWARK — Of more than 5,000 small businesses that met with NJ Small Business Development Center (SBDC) counselors for assistance in planning, marketing and financing their ventures last year, 10 home-based and Internet businesses are being honored for their successes.

The 10 SBDC Success 2000 Award winners are representative of a service based digital economy and recognized that entrepreneurial drive combined with technical mobility are necessary components of a successful enterprise. These entrepreneurs innovated in

a range of traditional service industries from information technology and business management to public speaking coaching and human services. Others marketed products as diverse as motorcycles accessories and fine fountain pens, but all of the awarders had several things in common.

They were either working from home during the start-up phase of their businesses or utilizing the Internet for sales and promotion.

"We're seeing that more small businesses are succeeding through incorporating information technologies into their business

plans," said NISBDC State Director Brenda B. Hopper. "The flexibility of working on the Internet is also a key factor in fueling growth within one of our traditional client based home-based entrepreneurs."

The winners are: Hoboken's Helen Bergstein of Digisville.com, an Internet site that provides a community approach to residence swapping for travel; Sea Girt's Barbara Burklepe of Bridges to Success, a business and human resources consultant; Paramus' Victoria Chorbajian of Chorbajian Speaking Enterprises, a public speaking coach, Deb Collins and

Terri Benincasa of Somers Point, whose CPSource is a home-based web design business; Newark's Harold Delaunoy of Ebbonics Computers, a provider of many computer services; Monclair's Michael Ellis of TME, who provides a range of business services including financial management and human resources; Millburn's Norman Haase of Hsnib.com, a fountain pen retailer; Trenton's Dana Hutchins of Inforest Communications, a web site development company; Mary Wright and Nancy McBride from Camden-based Senior Friends and Carvers, which provides home

companions for seniors; and Piscataway's Clint Moore of ShuBandt.com, an online retailer and wholesaler of motorcycle's accessories and clothing.

More information about each award and digital photographs from the award ceremony to honor the NISBDC Success 2000 Award winners are on the NISBDC's web site at <http://www.yourbizpartner.com/success>.

For more information about NISBDC free counseling and affordable training, contact the NISBDC Information Services Center at 1-800-432-1565.

Workers wanted

Business booming in New Jersey, but skilled labor in short supply

By Sherry Conahan

Associated Press Writer
TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — State officials painted a rosy picture of New Jersey's economy last Monday, but saw a thorn due to a "skills gap" among the workers still looking for jobs during this period of low unemployment.

Charles Hance, chief executive officer of the New Jersey Commerce and Economic Growth Commission, and state Labor Commissioner Mark Boyd told the Assembly Labor Committee of companies moving to New Jersey and thousands of jobs being created.

Hance said New Jersey's economy is expected to gain 60,000 new jobs in 2000. He said the state's robust economy contributed to 120 companies making a firm commitment to locate operations in New Jersey and create an estimated 17,500 jobs in 1999.

Boyd said nearly 425,000 jobs have been created since January 1994 when Gov. Christie Whitman took office.

He said Wall Street has helped job growth as securities and commodity brokers moved into New Jersey office space on the Hudson River waterfront. Other gains were made in the service, construction and finance, and insurance and real estate industries, he said.

But Boyd said with unemployment at or below 4 percent in all but one of the first nine months of this year, employers are having difficulty finding and keeping qualified workers particularly in the tourism industry.

"While we hear about a wage gap, the reality in New Jersey seems to be more of a skills gap," Boyd told the committee. "The problem we face is providing the language, communication and basic skills that many potential workers need to qualify for job skills training or good jobs in a technology-driven economy."

Newark's renaissance continues: State-of-the-art FBI facility to be built in city



The 230,000 square foot building on McCarter Highway and Centre Street will be the new home of the FBI.

NEWARK — Newark is in a wonderful renaissance period. The New Jersey Performing Arts Center is a tremendous success, and is home to the New Jersey State Symphony and the American Repertory Ballet. The NJPAC has greatly assisted in revitalizing the downtown area. Now, the U.S. General Services Administration is adding to Newark's waterfront resurgence. GSA has leased 230,000 square feet of space in a building to be constructed on the corners of McCarter Highway and Centre Street. Neighboring NJPAC, the facility will be home to the Newark Division of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. "I am very pleased with the lease agreement," said Joseph R. Lewis, the FBI special agent in charge of the Newark Division.

"Expectations of moving into the new space are becoming a reality." GSA has awarded the lease contract to developing firm, Claremont Newark, LLC; and the city and state gave the stamp of approval for the deal.

"We are happy to play an important role in Newark's development," Thomas J. Ryan, GSA regional administrator, said. "This should have a profound impact upon Newark's economy."

Claremont has retained the firm of Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut & Kuhn Architects to design the new FBI office building. The firm has worked with a variety of clients in the Newark area. They've designed most of the current development projects in downtown Newark. Ehrenkrantz, Eckstut &

Kuhn are responsible for developing the waterfront master plan concepts for the New Newark Foundation and a new mixed-use business district on the north side of Military Park. The firm also developed a master plan and design for the New Jersey Nets new downtown arena.

In this high visibility location on Newark's waterfront, the new FBI building design will match NJPAC's contemporary look. The office tower facade will be constructed of vision glass and brick, similar to that found at NJPAC. The North end of the tower will be constructed using an aluminum-framed curtain-wall system with alternating horizontal bands of vision and spandrel glass. The multi-faceted vertical section of this curtain-wall will engage the NJPAC across

McCarter highway. A small portion of the base facade will be constructed of curtain-wall construction using spandrel glass panels. Beautiful trees will adorn the walkway next to the waterfront.

Details of the lease include an annual rate of \$11,675,000 for a 20-year term. In addition, there are two 5-year renewal options. The 12-story building will be an incredible state-of-the-art facility. The lease contains all of the special required needs of the FBI. Housed on one and one-half acres, the building will include 400 parking spaces below the site. And 4 percent of the building's area will be ground floor retail space. Completion is scheduled for fall 2002. The ceremonial groundbreaking will be forthcoming.

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